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Mass killer harboured lasting grudge against women

From MARTIN FLETCHER in KILLEEN, TEXAS

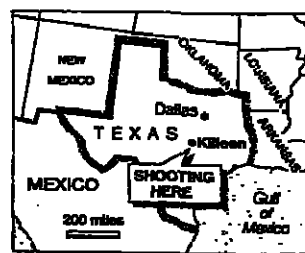
GEORGE Hennard, perpetrator of the deadliest mass shooting in American history, was an angry, aggressive loner who harboured a deep grudge against women, his neighbours and the local authorities, it emerged yesterday.

As the devastated people of this town in the heart of Texas thought to comprehend the tragedy, police seeking a motive for Hennard's murderous rampage through Luby's Cafeteria said that hate letters he had sent female neighbours and his arguments with Bell County authorities were being investigated but they still had no idea what had prompted his actions.

The extraordinary story of Wednesday's massacre, which

left 22 dead and ended in Hennard's suicide, continued to unfold. As he calmly selected his victims, Hennard told Amica McNeil to take her four-year-old daughter out of the restaurant. A restaurant employee was found alive early yesterday morning in the industrial dishwasher where he had hidden to escape Hennard's rampage 19 hours earlier. Another employee may have saved her own life by spending two hours in the restaurant's freezer but required hospital treatment for hypothermia.

In Killeen yesterday people wept, the streets were almost deserted, flags flew at half-mast, the churches announced a prayer vigil and the Luby's



restaurant chain gave \$100,000 to open a memorial fund for the victims' families. The dead were aged from 34 to 70 and included teachers, educational administrators, a high school football coach, a nurse and a Vietnam veteran from the Fort Hood army base abutting the town. Fourteen were women, eight were men. Two of the 25 injured are in a critical condition.

Killeen police chief, said Hennard was a 35-year-old white unemployed former merchant seaman who lived alone in his parents' former home in an affluent area of Belton, a small city 18 miles to the north-east. He had been arrested in 1981 for possessing marijuana but had no criminal record.

However one neighbour, Jane Bugg, said Hennard had some time ago taken a fancy to her two daughters. Last June he sent them a rambling letter stating that he had found "the best and worst of women" in Texas. "Please give me the satisfaction of some day laughing in the face of all those, mostly white, treacherously female vipers... who tried to destroy me and my family."

Neighbours said he had argued with them and the authorities about a collapsed wall in his garden. His answering machine said: "Yo Cuz! You've reached public street. Leave your name, number, time and date and we'll respond. Hang-up phonecalls though are absolutely unacceptable and you'll get bugged, too, if you continue to do so."

Luby's 296-seat cafeteria was said to be three-quarters full when Hennard drove his pick-up truck through a plate-glass window into the restaurant.

Hennard was armed with two 9mm semi-automatic pistols, a .45 Smith & Wesson .45 with 15 rounds, a .38 Smith & Wesson .38 with 17 rounds and three spare magazines for each. By the time he killed

himself he still had about 27 unused rounds.

Some diners were killed or injured as his truck crashed through the window. Witnesses said he then walked coolly through the restaurant, picking his victims.

Arrived police officers arrived ten minutes after the rampage began and started firing at Hennard. Wounded, he crawled back towards the lavatory and, lying on his back, fired a single shot through his right temple.

Texas gun laws place no prohibition on the purchase of guns. A large hoarding outside D's Pawnshop on the way into town was still offering shotguns for sale for \$69.95.

'Human time-bombs', page 9
 Bloody example, page 16



George Hennard: a 1987 picture released by police

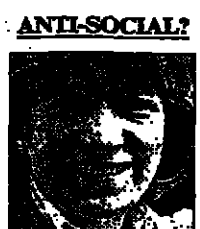
TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

Saturday Review

LONG PAUSE



Harold Pinter is back in the limelight with a full-length play, the first for 13 years. In the Saturday Review tomorrow Alan Franks looks behind the anger



Child-snatchers or carers? Polly Toynbee interviews some much-abused social workers and finds both stereotypes and surprises

WEEKEND TIMES

RHYME AND REASON



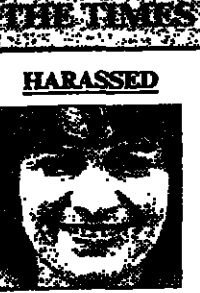
Wendy Cope is one of many poets taking to the stage next week. In tomorrow's Weekend Times Philip Howard applauds the hardy of Britain

HAPPY HALF-TERM



Kite-flying? Treasure hunts? Wildlife walks? Half-term ideas in plenty in Weekend Times

TODAY IN THE TIMES



Sexual harassment? A smokescreen, says Libby Parves - it's the exercise of male power that really grates. Laurie Taylor, meanwhile, argues for an amnesty Page 15

TOUGH AT THE TOP



"You can't sell white cosmetics on white skin," bemoans Naomi Campbell, the supermodel said to earn £10,000-a-day Page 15

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TV-am fall breaks Thatcher's heart

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

MARGARET Thatcher, architect of the widely criticised ITV franchise auction, yesterday accepted part of the blame for TV-am losing its licence.

In a handwritten letter to Bruce Gyngell, the TV-am chairman, she said she was heartbroken and mystified by the Independent Television Commission's decision, adding that she was "painfully aware" of her responsibility for the franchise law.

Mrs Thatcher's letter, on House of Commons note-paper, was hand delivered to Mr Gyngell's Chelsea home late on Wednesday night. She wrote: "Dear Bruce: When I see how some of the other licences have been awarded, I am mystified that you did not receive yours, and heartbroken. You of all people have done so much for the whole of television - there seems to have been no attention to that. I am only too painfully aware that I was responsible for the legislation. Yours, Margaret."

Mr Gyngell, who said he had replied with a simple "Thank you, Margaret", disclosed the contents of the letter at a journalism awards luncheon sponsored by TV-am at Claridge's in London. He defended his company's record saying it was the most profitable station in the world and the only one to achieve a 72 per cent market share.

Then, after sitting down, he rose again to say: "There's something else. I have this letter which I would like to read to you."

Mr Gyngell became known as Mrs Thatcher's favourite broadcaster after a bitter strike that resulted in the dismissal of 229 TV-am technicians in 1988. Soon afterwards Mrs Thatcher, whose daughter Carol works as a freelance journalist for TV-am, described the broadcasting unions the last bastion of restrictive practices in Britain.

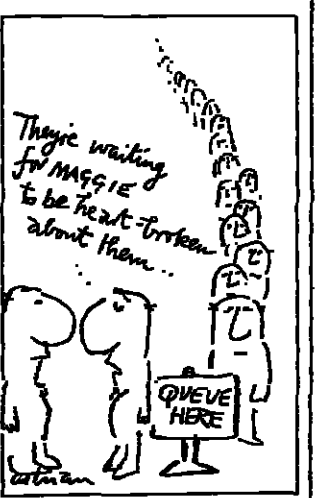
Yesterday, her letter was greeted with a mixture of incredulity and anger by both winners and losers in the franchise auction. Richard Dunn, the Thames chief executive who was one of the leading lobbyists against the

highest bid system, said: "The former prime minister is not as 'painfully aware' of this as we at Thames Television are." Thames lost its licence yesterday after being outbid by Carlton Television.

David McCall, chief executive of Anglia TV, one of the winners, said: "If she favoured the highest cash bidding system, she shouldn't be surprised at the loss of TV-am. It was the inevitable result. Now she obviously thinks TV-am should have been retained on its merit. If she had accepted what the ITV Association had advocated in the first place - rolling contracts at a set price, accountability to a regulator and takeovers - then TV-am would not have lost its licence."

Greg Dyke, London Weekend Television's chief executive, said: "Some of us tried to explain to the government at the time that the results of the franchise process that they were introducing would be irrational - and they were. I don't remember the government listening too hard then."

Earlier, he told Anne Diamond on a TVS programme that the present government



will "tell you 'well, it wouldn't happen today'. If I was Thames or TVS or one of the others that lost, I would say 'well, thank you very much'. It was a ludicrous system from the beginning."

But senior ministers yesterday defended the tender system, saying they could not

Continued on page 22, col 1

TIN chief goes, page 2

BR drops liability clause

Rail passengers may be compensated under strictly defined circumstances, reports Michael Dynes

British Rail is to abandon the notorious cast-iron conditions of carriage that have absolved it of any liability for late and cancelled trains since nationalisation in 1948.

BR's revised conditions of carriage, which will be published in December, are expected to acknowledge liability in certain strictly defined circumstances, and provide passengers with a guide to the type and levels of compensation available.

Liability will be restricted to direct loss, enabling passengers to claim compensation for the cost of rail journeys subject to delays or cancellations. It will not cover consequential loss, where passengers suffer further because of late or cancelled services.

The initiative is expected to become one of the cornerstones of the citizen's charter, unveiled in April by John Major as part of the government's pledge to improve public services, although BR had begun work on the scheme of its own volition in January.

Continued on page 22, col 4

Jobless rise slows down

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government yesterday welcomed a "unmistakable" sign of the end of the recession the smallest rise in unemployment for 11 months after the seasonally adjusted number out of work showed a much lower increase than expected.

Government and City forecasters had predicted a rise of another 60,000, but the seasonally-adjusted increase for September was only 35,700, to take the total to 2.46 million. Even so, the rise - the 18th consecutive monthly rise - was the third-highest post-war September increase and took unemployment to the highest for three and a half years.

In the Commons, Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, accused the government of "doing Britain down" as unemployment increased. Mr Kinnock said: "The longer this Cabinet hangs on to its

jobs, the more other people are going to lose theirs."

John MacGregor, leader of the Commons, said Labour would "lose more jobs more permanently."

Government concern about the political impact of unemployment was indicated when Conservative party officials used statistical data not formally published by the government yesterday to show what they said was the decreasing impact of unemployment in Tory constituencies. They said that unemployment in September fell in 189 constituencies, including six of the ten most marginal Tory seats and 29 of 65 Tory seats with majorities below 5,000.

The lower-than-expected increase sits oddly with a stream of job loss announcements.

Michael Howard, the employment secretary, said that taken with rising exports and orders, and improving

business and consumer confidence, the lower unemployment figures were "unmistakable signs of the end of the recession"

Unadjusted "headline" unemployment increased by 13,568 to 2,450,689, a rate of 8.6 per cent.

Leading article, page 17
 Wages steady, page 23

Back to school: Norma Major, wife of the prime minister, chatting to children from the St James Mission School near Nyamankhlovu in southern Zimbabwe.

At the Commonwealth conference in Harare, John Major announced yesterday that Britain is to go ahead with plans to cancel debts owed by the poorest Third World states.

Summit report, page 12

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No looking back for Osborne's angry O'Toole

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

TWO of the theatre's most volatile personalities have collided, causing an explosion which will leave several angry men feeling older and one lady feeling anxious.

John Osborne's long awaited sequel to *Look Back in Anger* will not now be opening at the Liverpool Playhouse on November 13 thanks to "irreconcilable differences", said the theatre, between the playwright and Peter O'Toole, who was to have starred in *Deja Vu* as the older Jimmy Porter, the angry young man he last played in 1959.

"Peter wanted changes to the script which John was not happy about," said Ian Kellgren, artistic director of the Liverpool Playhouse. "The changes were made, but Peter was still not happy and the relationship finally fell apart."

Bill Kenwright, the impresario and executive producer of the Playhouse, was last night trying to find a replacement. "This was going to be a great box office success, but now I will lose money. How much will depend on what we can get instead," he said.

There is also said to have been disagreement between writer and actor about O'Toole's commitment to the play. "Peter has a film coming up in 1992 and John felt he ought to be keeping next year free in case the play has a long West End run," said a mutual friend last night.

The Liverpool Playhouse was saved from bankruptcy earlier this year by the intervention of a court-appointed administrator and sponsorship from, chiefly, Littlewoods Pools. *Deja Vu* was to have been a spectacular return to box office solvency. "This is disastrous for us," Mr Kellgren said. "It was due to be here for three weeks and was the

highlight of our first season after the rescue. All our leaflets have got Peter O'Toole's face on them. Rehearsals for *Deja Vu* were supposed to have started last Monday. The trouble is that with the demise of repertory theatre commodity is the thing and Peter O'Toole was a wonderful commodity."

The line from Philip Adler, O'Toole's agent, is different. "There is no disagreement, no animosity between anyone," he said. "They mutually agreed that it just wasn't right for this time and they would try to do it later."

Peter O'Toole's most recent stage appearance has been in *Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell*, but he has had less acclaimed West End appearances. In 1980 his *Macbeth* at the Old Vic was a critical disaster, the stage flowing with gore which the actors slipped on, blundering into the set, to the disdain of critics and delight of capacity audiences.



O'Toole: wanted changes to Osborne's script

EC orders a halt to £500m road schemes

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY and MICHAEL DYNES

WORK should stop immediately on three road schemes costing more than £500 million that are the subject of environmental disputes, including the extension of the M3 motorway through Twyford Down in Hampshire, the European Commission told Britain yesterday.

Carlo Ripa di Meana, the European environment commissioner, made the unprecedented request in a personal letter to Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, which accompanied the formal opening of infringement proceedings against

Britain for allegedly violating an EC law requiring detailed environmental assessments of construction projects.

In a conversation yesterday with Peter Price, the British Euro-MP, he indicated that if the request was not complied with, the commission would consider seeking an injunction from the European Court of Justice to halt work.

As well as the £36 million Twyford Down scheme, Sir Ripa di Meana is asking for a halt to work on the £300 million east London river crossing road. This will cut through Oxleas Wood in southeast London, the last significant remnant of ancient woodland in the capital.

The third scheme is the £200 million Hackney Wick link road to the M11 motorway in northeast London, which campaigners claim will destroy local communities and cut across parts of Epping Forest, Hackney Marsh and Lee Valley regional park.

Preparatory work has begun on the M3 and M11 schemes; nothing has yet been done on the project affecting Oxleas Wood.

The government is also charged with failing to translate correctly into British law the 1985 Environmental Impact Assessment directive in more than a dozen separate sets of regulations.

Last night the government countered the allegations, saying it had implemented the directive in good faith and that the dispute was essentially a technical one. Ministers will be studying the position today.

Mr Price, who has been at the forefront of the campaign to save Oxleas Wood, said: "I am delighted, and I hope that this may yet save a unique woodland, which is a major asset to Londoners."

Andrew Lees, campaigns director for Friends of the Earth, said: "The commissioner has thrown a spanner into the government's misguided, dead-end road policy which is trashing the countryside."



Switching off: David Nicholas, who made ITN a leading force in British news gathering and, according to Margaret Thatcher, "without a penny of taxpayers' money"

ITN pioneer steps down after 30 years

SIR David Nicholas's lifetime dedication to Independent Television News could not have been more apparent in the early hours of Monday, August 19. Who else at ITN could have been relied upon to be listening to Radio Moscow at 5am other than the 61-year-old chairman, who promptly woke up ITN's editor with news of the Soviet coup.

"It has happened before on many stories," says Huw Robert, ITN's spokesman and a fellow Welshman. "David goes to bed every night with a radio carpipe so he can pick up stations around the world. He is a consummate newsman and radio is his hobby. Just the other day, he was swapping wavebands with the head of information at Scotland Yard."

Regarded as one of Britain's

most influential figures in the evolution of television news, Sir David retires today after three decades in which he has been ITN's deputy editor, then editor and chief executive, and finally chairman.

As his friend Sir Alastair Burnet said at Sir David's leaving party at the Savoy last Monday, Sir David was "often the only visible force driving ITN". A highly-competitive newsman, particularly when it came to scooping the BBC, Sir David pioneered election-night computer graphics and technological innovations such as electronic news gathering (ENG) and its satellite precursor (SNG). "He was ITN," many colleagues say.

When Sir David arrived as a sub-editor in 1960, ITN was a struggling appendage of ITV, putting out fewer than ten

"He was ITN," colleagues said. Melinda Wittstock on the retirement of Sir David Nicholas

minutes of news a day. It was transformed into a national institution by Sir David's launch, in 1967, of *News at Ten*.

Colleagues are saddened that Sir David's distinguished career with ITN should have ended as the news organisation he built was plunged into financial chaos by an unforeseen £1.6 million overspend in 1989/90, blamed primarily on expensive coverage of revolutions in Eastern Europe.

The overspend infuriated ITN's ITV company shareholders, already angered by Sir Alastair's support for the government's decision to make ITV sell 51 per cent of its shareholding.

Sir David's resignation, along with that of Sir Alastair, was announced in June amid sinking morale among ITN staff and bitter infighting on ITN's board about editorial overspending. Over 135 compulsory redundancies soon followed.

But on Monday night, all was forgotten as politicians and Britain's broadcasting establishment gathered to pay tribute to Sir David.

John Major, attending the Commonwealth conference, could not be there but he sent his regards in a special video made by ITN staff, saying: "I

don't believe that it is fanciful to say that above all other people, you're responsible for the fact that ITN has become one of the great television companies of the world." Neil Kinnock was next on the video, followed by Mrs Thatcher. "We would like to thank and congratulate David Nicholas for his enormous contribution. It has been done without a penny piece of taxpayers' money," she said as the room erupted in laughter.

Sir David, who lost his chance to become chairman of an ITV company when C3W failed to oust HTV in Wales and the West, says he has "no immediate plans beyond buying a boat". ITN will announce his successor as chairman early next year.

Thatcher heartbroken, page 1

Police fear for tunnel security

Police chiefs disclosed yesterday they are asking the government for new powers to stop and search trespassers found in the Channel tunnel (writes Sheila Gunn).

Before the 1993 opening, Kent police want to tighten the Police and Criminal Evidence Act to cope with the unprecedented risks.

At a meeting of the Commons home affairs committee in Maidstone County Hall, Kent, Paul Condon, the county's chief constable, said some French police officers stationed in Folkestone will carry guns. British police at Coquelles will not be armed.

Top award for Times writer

Michael McCarthy, environment correspondent of *The Times*, has won the national newspaper journalist of the year award in the annual British Environment and Media Awards sponsored by Johnson Matthey and Media Natura, the conservation awareness trust. The citation said he was chosen for his "consistently keen political grasp of environmental matters and his news perception".

Melinda Wittstock, media correspondent of *The Times*, received a special mention yesterday in the TV-am broadcast journalists' awards for her "consistently intelligent writing".



Wittstock: special mention for intelligent writing

CORRECTION

A line was omitted from the anniversary of October 15. The entry should have read Raymond Poincaré, president of France, 1913-20, Paris, 1934; Pierre Laval, head of Vichy government 1942-44, executed, Paris, 1945.

Home Office seeks to cut prisoners in police cells

By QUENTIN COWDRY and STEWART TENDLER

THE Home Office is considering emergency measures to reduce the number of prisoners being held in police cells, and chief constables yesterday decided on an urgent approach to the home secretary for more action to relieve pressure on their forces.

Less than three weeks after the postponing of the closure of a jail and the deferring of refurbishment of 200 cells at

Brixton jail, in south London, to provide more prison beds, the number of prisoners held by police for the Home Office stood at 1,809 yesterday. Chief officers now fear that they are close to crisis point unless the Home Office acts quickly, and they yesterday decided to send Brian Johnson, chief constable of Lancashire and the new president of the Association of Chief Police Officers,

to see Kenneth Baker, the home secretary. Prison officials are seeking short-term ways of increasing capacity. Options include freezing refurbishment schemes, deferring the closure of another jail and using army camps as temporary prisons.

Some police forces have already designated stations to house only Home Office prisoners. Yesterday, when chief constables met for a session of Acpo's council, there was anger at the pressure on police. Some prisoners are having to be transported long distances, using valuable manpower, and chief constables are distressed that measures already announced have failed to solve the problem.

The Home Office said an unexpected sharp rise in the jail population had made officials consider new steps.

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'Councils deprived of freedom'

By DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE chairman of the Bar Council yesterday accused the government of undermining the principle of local democracy and called for greater freedom of action for local authorities.

Anthony Scrivener, QC, told senior district council officers at their annual conference in Bath that people were no longer free to decide how their council should be run. Poll tax capping and increased legal powers taken by ministers had made local elections increasingly irrelevant and deprived councils of their independence.

He also criticised the role of the Audit Commission in issuing legal advice supporting government policy. It had become another method of getting local authorities to toe the line without having to legislate, he said.

Calling for a new commitment to local democracy on the part of ministers, Mr Scrivener said councils should be given greater freedom to administer their own affairs. In particular he urged the repeal of the ultra vires doctrine under which councils are restricted to doing things that they have been given specific legal powers to do.

By allowing them a general power of competence, as the Labour party proposed, councils would be given similar freedoms to those enjoyed by private companies that can do anything that is not illegal. That would lead to accountability to the local electorate even if it meant local policies were not those favoured by the party in control of central government.

Recession strikes the professions

PROFESSIONALS who for so long could only sympathise with the unemployed are now able to empathise with their plight after gaining first-hand experience.

According to a survey by the magazine *Accountancy Age*, more than a quarter of City accountants fear for their jobs and only insolvency fees lighten the gloom. Nationally, it predicts one in ten - about 30,000 - jobs in banks, building societies and finance houses will have gone by 1995.

Noel Howell, of the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union, said: "We can't remember a butchery like it." Barclays was cutting 17,000, National Westminster 12,000, Midland 3,000 and the TSB 1,000, while the Co-op Bank planned 25 per cent cuts.

Claire Austin, of the British Institute of Management, said tens of thousands of jobs had gone in the past 18 months. British Gas, BT, BP and British Home Stores had cut whole layers of management.

The number of businesses going into receivership in the first three quarters of this year rose 70 per cent on the same period last year, and the number of personal bankruptcies almost doubled over the past year. Especially vulnerable were individual traders, entrepreneurial businesses who had succumbed to high-interest mortgage rates.

Although businessmen complain that commercial

lawyers continue to charge up to £300 an hour, the legal profession has not escaped unscathed. The Law Society has announced 50 redundancies among its 600 staff in a move to cut £3 million from next year's budget, while hundreds of solicitors are unable to find jobs and are not renewing their certificates.

Architects say it is the worst recession they can remember, with one in five out of work. Commissions have fallen by 53 per cent in Scotland and more than 20 in London, the Midlands and East Anglia. The office building boom of the Eighties has fallen away and a depressed housing market has cut the private sector by more than a third.

Highly qualified staff are among thousands of civil engineers who have lost their jobs. The latest *Engineering Economic Trends* report said a further 90,000 jobs would go over the next 12 months on top of the 150,000 lost in the past year. That would reduce engineering employment to 1.84 million against three million in 1980.

More than four out of ten repossessed houses are mortgaged by professionals, say the building societies, with accountants 15 times more likely to lose their homes through arrears than unskilled workers.

Jobless rise, page 1
Leading article, page 17
Business, page 33

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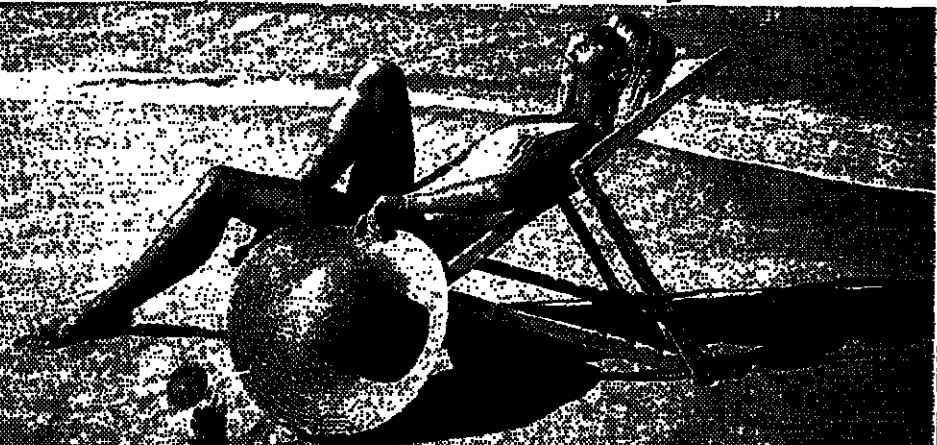


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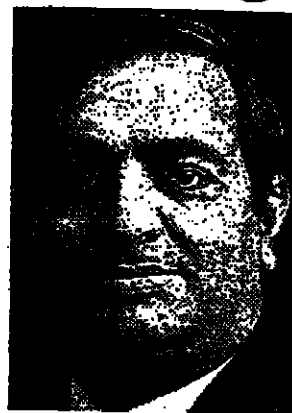
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Refugee made the long haul from 'Hardship Lane' to SW1



Virani: started with London grocery store

NAZMU Virani is the archetype of someone who, against all odds, clawed his way to the heights of British industry.

He arrived in Britain 19 years ago, a penniless refugee from Idi Amin's campaign of terror against Uganda's 60,000 Asians. He would recount how he was forced to flee at "bayonet point" after a Sikh neighbour was shot dead by soldiers, and how, with his wife, Yasmin, and 18-month-old daughter, Shaila, he was nearly turned back on arrival in Britain for lacking proper papers. It was only when an immigration officer noticed the baby was ill that

Nazmu Virani, as head of Control Securities is the leading Asian at the helm of a public company in Britain, writes Louise Hidalgo

temporary admission was granted. In ten years he rose from owning a grocery store in south London, grudgingly leased to him by a Hampstead property owner to whom he still sends champagne and cigars every Christmas, to become, according to a *Sunday Times* survey this year, one of Britain's richest Asians with a personal fortune of £60 million. Mr Virani, aged 43, has attrib-

uted his fortune to buying and selling property that Britain's property establishment would not touch. "We deal in other people's rubbish," is how he described Control Securities, the now troubled property group with headquarters in SW1, which he turned into one of Britain's top 20 property firms. "We have connections in the mosque and the temple with

buyers of these types of property, which the big boys in the property world do not have," he is quoted as saying. At one point, Control registered 17,000 private shareholders, including 28 pages of Patels.

After his first supermarket in Lordship Lane, Dulwich, - which he refers to as Hardship Lane - Mr Virani built up a chain of 19 retail outlets and a flourishing cash-and-carry business before branching into hotels and then, with the purchase of Belhaven Brewery in 1988, into breweries and public houses. His empire includes the Holiday Inn hotel in

Marble Arch, 11 hotels in Spain and more than 300 pubs.

Mr Virani would buy up inner-city pubs, brand them and transform them. He bought property portfolios wholesale from the likes of British Land and would sell them on to entrepreneurs. He worked hard, on average 18 hours a day, and struck a hard bargain, according to business associates. But he is well liked among both the business and Asian community, counting among his friends Gerald Ronson, Godfrey Bradman and Tony Clegg. When his younger brother married last year, he invited Margaret Thatcher to the

1,000-guest reception at the Grosvenor House Hotel.

His charitable donations to universities and hospitals and work with the Prince of Wales' Youth Business Trust, for which he raised £5 million and was chairman of its Community Affairs Initiative, last year earned him Asian of the Year award. In July, he headed a trade delegation to Uganda, at the invitation of the country's president, to discuss ways of reviving its ailing economy.

Fraud Office raid, page 1
BCCI enquiry widens, page 23

Inspectors say CTC lessons in technology sub-standard

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

BRITAIN'S first city technology college, described by government ministers as a "beacon of excellence", was criticised yesterday by Her Majesty's inspectors of schools for sub-standard lessons in technology.

Kingshurst CTC in Solihull, West Midlands, which opened in September 1988, was also criticised for a "lack of clear and coherent planning" in science and "less than satisfactory" lessons in modern languages, with teachers unable to use the language fluently and conducting many lessons in English.

Examining technology at the school, the inspectors say: "The good work in informa-

tion technology is not matched by similar standards in technology as a whole... The consequent lack of co-ordination results in little understanding about what is expected of students."

Valerie Bragg, the principal, accepted criticism of design technology classes saying that the national curriculum requirements had not yet been decided and that the lessons were now being adjusted to meet those demands. She rejected criticisms of modern language teaching as her three specialists were away from the college at the time of the week-long inspection and the classes were taken by other teachers.

Mrs Bragg agreed that the college had still not hit on a satisfactory way of helping both the most able and the least able pupils. "Mixed ability teaching is always difficult and we are looking at ways of improving things."

She said that overall the report had been favourable to the college. "We are very pleased with the report. It would have been impossible to have received a wonderful report after only eight terms."

Poll backs university investment

By JOHN O'LEARY
HIGHER EDUCATION
CORRESPONDENT

SEVEN out of ten people would be willing to pay higher taxes to maintain the quality of British universities, according to a poll published today. Almost nine out of ten of those interviewed by Gallup early this month said increased investment in higher education was vital to Britain's economic prosperity.

The majority of almost 1,000 interviewees, including a third of Conservative supporters, felt that universities' achievements had been undervalued by the government. Similar proportions thought that university research received too little public money.

Diana Warwick, general secretary of the Association of University Teachers, which commissioned the poll, said: "These results must persuade policy makers that election manifestos supporting investment in higher education will be vote-winners. We have been saying for a long time that science is suffering, that standards and quality depend on investment."

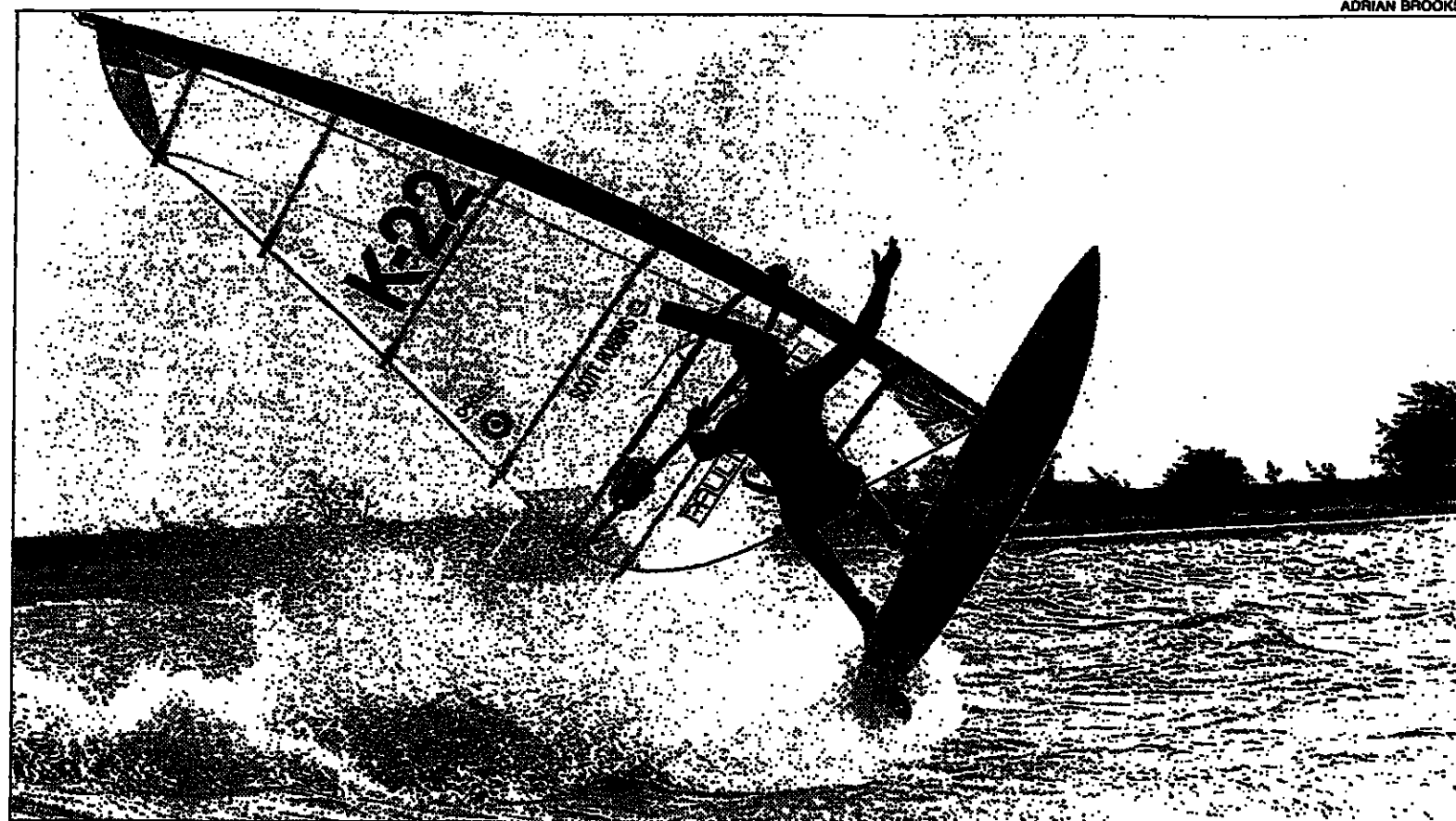
Yoko Ono has kept a promise to Liverpool with a £405,000 gift to its university. Proceeds from a trust fund will provide John Lennon scholarships for students unable to afford to study at it.

The controversial colleges, which cost an average £7 million each, have failed to attract the industrial sponsorship intended to meet 80 per cent of the start-up costs and all the running costs of the 13 now open in England and Wales. They have been consistently attacked by the Labour party which is pledged to scrap the CTC programme.

Jack Straw, Labour's front-bench education spokesman, said: "This report is a serious embarrassment for the government because the inspectors are critical of Kingshurst teaching in technology - just what it was set up to do in the first place. The report shows that this first flagship CTC is failing to live up to expectation on almost every count."

Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, accepted that the report highlighted some weaknesses but said that the inspectors had praised the college on the maturity and enthusiasm of its students and on the speed with which the college had established itself as a popular school.

● Middlesex Polytechnic, north London, is to shed 90 jobs, half from among academic staff, due to financial problems caused by its recent expansion.



Riding the storm: Scott Robbins, aged 25, has no complaints about yesterday's winds as he practises on the Queen Mary reservoir in Surrey for next week's British windsurfing championships at Bournemouth. At time he became airborne on gusts of up to 50mph

Bishop warns dean of commercialism

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bishop of Salisbury has condemned the increasing use of the city's 13th century cathedral as a place of entertainment and profit.

In a report published today which will be seen as akin to Christ's throwing the money-lenders out of the temple, the bishop warns the dean and chapter against the commercialisation of cathedral activities.

But he recognises that the staff have been forced to turn to Mammon by the enormous burden of their cathedral stewardship. The Rt Rev John Baker says cathedral staff cannot assume today that visitors understand why there is a cross on the altar. He questions how many visitors know what a cathedral church, or even a diocese, is in the Church of England. He says

that the financial needs of the cathedral appear to have taken over to such an extent that the overwhelming impact on the visitor is of appeals for money. He warns that the temptation of using the drawing power of the cathedral to finance its work can result in decision-making being controlled by the need for money.

The bishop carried out a "visitation", or inquiry, into the cathedral at the invitation of the dean and chapter. In the 31-page report he objects to proposals in the "highly contentious" Rothermel Thomas study on management of the close.

The bishop declares himself against charging for entry and against the development of a separate visitor centre and restaurant which, he says, could deter visitors from entering the church itself. The cathedral authorities ought to phase out such features, not build them up. "There should be a warm welcome and basic amenities, no more," he adds.

The bishop criticises the lack of material explaining the church's mission and the religious meaning of features of the cathedral.

He attacks the use of the cathedral as a place of entertainment. Using it as a venue for the *Antiques Roadshow* was "crossing the wrong side of even a necessarily broad and hazy line", he says.



Bishop Baker: against charging for entry

Coroner attacks cash delay

THE coroner holding an inquest on Penny Bell, the businesswoman found stabbed to death in her Jaguar car in a west London car park, yesterday criticised a rule that holds up insurance payments to a murder victim's family.

More than four months after Mrs Bell's death insurance companies had not made payments to her family because no death certificate had been issued. Dr John Burton, coroner for Hammer-smith and Fulham, who recorded a verdict of unlawful killing on Mrs Bell, aged 42, of Denham, Buckinghamshire, attacked the rule that in a murder case death can only be registered when a person is charged with homicide or an inquest is completed.

The Association of British Insurers said the terms of a

policy laid down what documents were required for proof of death and establishment of the claim. "An interim death certificate is not the same as the actual one, and it's up to the company to decide whether it can bend the rules in each case."

After the hearing Mrs Bell's husband Alistair, aged 44, said he would never lose hope that the killer would be traced.

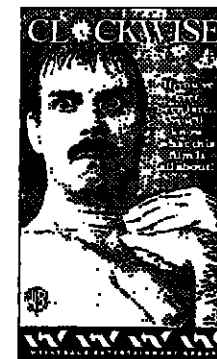
Afterwards a legal spokesman said there were hundreds of cases since 1987 where drink-driving offenders had been convicted and had not been given the opportunity to say whether he preferred a blood or urine sample to be taken.

Afterwards a legal spokesman said there were hundreds of cases since 1987 where drink-driving offenders had been convicted and had not been given the opportunity to give their preference over a blood or urine sample. They would now be able to appeal against their convictions.

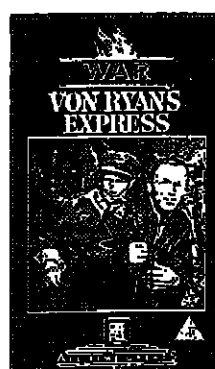
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WOOLWORTHS

Ill wind blows in twitcher's 'disease'

By TIM JONES

THE storm that has been battering parts of Britain has brought with it good news for thousands of amateur ornithologists - and bad news for their employers, who may find a mysterious increase in days lost to "illness".

Throughout the land, from the Isles of Scilly to lonely Loch Lubbair, near Crianlarich, rare birds are landing unexpectedly and people afflicted with twitchers' disease are driving through the night to track them down and render their temporary domiciles even less restful.

It can be no fun being a Pied-billed Grebe or a Sora Rail, a secretive marsh bird with only 12 sightings recorded in the UK over the past 150 years. One minute, you are a young bird enjoying a comfortable existence in North America and the next, whoosh: you hit a 150mph air current and end up in a swamp near St Mary's, Isles of Scilly or, in the case of the grebe, on a strange lake in Scotland. Life becomes even less endurable

when scores of human beings trample down the reeds and heather to take your picture and tick you off their list.

For the twitchers, the sound of a great storm sweeping in is music. Many would consider exchanging their grandmothers for the chance to drive through the night to seize the moment, while the more organised plan their holidays to coincide with the storm season.

Perhaps reflecting the general misery of life in what used to be called the Soviet Union, most of the feathered vagrants are from that troubled land. Others come from Romania, Bulgaria or Iran.

Ian Dawson, of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, says that the "jewel in the crown" for any twitcher is the Desert Warbler, which can be seen at Flamborough, on Humberside's North Sea

coast. It has been recorded on these shores only six times before and normally lives in the southern Soviet Union.

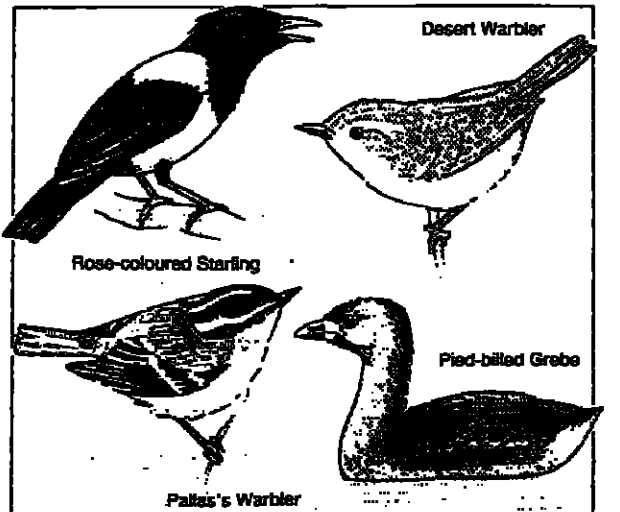
Sadly, many of the wayward birds are so far from their usual migratory routes that they will not survive.

There is some good news. The RSPB has praised police for 40 successful prosecutions last year, in cases ranging from egg stealing to game keepers poisoning magnificent birds of prey.

Yesterday, supporters of the society delivered 55,000 postcards to the EC environment commissioner, calling for an end to the import of birds caught in the wild.

Barbara Young, the society's chief executive, said: "The international trade in wild birds is of great concern to the British public. It has brought many birds to the edge of extinction. Only new legislation to prohibit the importation of wild birds in the community will end this inexcusable and unsustainable trade in death."

Weather, page 22



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Although Mr. Haughey survived many challenges to his authority during a long political career,

**People of
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The enquiry reflects a spread frustration with government policy and the failure of the province's leaders to reach agreement over years. It is the idea of R. Wilson, editor of the *Northern Ireland current affairs magazine Forum*, and Sir Lee, English born professor of jurisprudence at Queen's University Belfast.

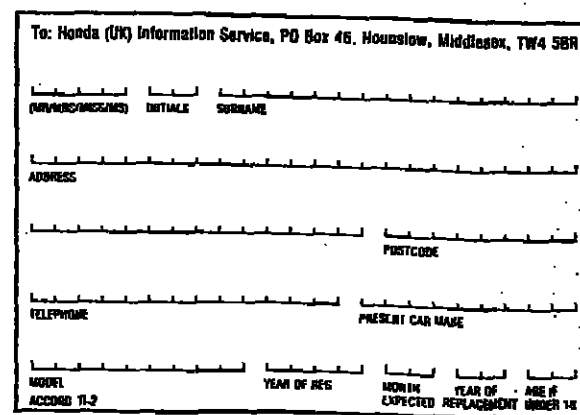
Mr Wilson believes government initiatives have taken insufficient account of public's views and alienated many talented people. 'Independent Commission' enquiry offers the best approach to secure an effective political forum, he says.

The impetus for the campaign is the recent launch of efforts by Peter Browke, the Northern Ireland secretary, and opposition polls showing a substantial progress and suggesting that party leaders are out of touch with their supporters.

A strong group of community, church, business, trade union and academic figures looking for up to five commissioners, at least one of whom is expected to come from each of mainland Britain, Northern Ireland, and the Republic. The chairman could come from abroad.

Politicians have given a commission a guarded welcome.

SOURCE: INTO CARSPAGE DATA BASE



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Paul Judge, chairman of Ford from Boston, the official body promoting British exports, said that the government did not agree with what was at stake in an industry employing 1.5 million people and contributing 45 per cent of the nation's

"The British need an industry which must improve its marketing and export facilities, but government must take responsibility for competing on the infinitely vast other member states," Judge and Government significantly lower than in the European community. Food from Britain had a budget last year of

Haughey's grip weakened by policy rift disclosure

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

CHARLES Haughey's authority as Irish prime minister and Fianna Fáil leader was badly damaged yesterday by disclosures that his finance minister had rejected his acceptance of terms for a new programme of government with the party's junior coalition partners, the Progressive Democrats.

Although Mr Haughey has survived many challenges to his authority during a long, bruising political career, col-

leagues and commentators yesterday began to accept that his end could be near.

The disclosures are the first concrete evidence of what many of Mr Haughey's critics have said for some time: that his authority over his cabinet has been seriously eroded. He is also seen as having shown himself not in command of events in recent months when financial scandals have damaged the government's credibility.

The Irish Press's political correspondent yesterday predicted that a leadership challenge, most probably from Albert Reynolds, the finance minister, who is often considered the favourite to succeed Mr Haughey, was imminent.

The key to the crisis, the second to threaten the Fianna Fáil/UD coalition in less than a year, is mid-term negotiations between the parties on a new programme of government that have been stalled on PD demands for radical tax reform and implementation of a strategy for dealing with public finances.

According to reports, Mr Haughey and Des O'Malley, the PD leader, reached agreement on a package on Tuesday night, but this was rejected by Mr Reynolds, who is leading the Fianna Fáil negotiating team, on Wednesday.

Mr Reynolds's move was seen by PD sources as a direct challenge to Mr Haughey's authority. Mr Reynolds was said to be unhappy about accepting a deal that would influence his budget for next year without an opportunity to test its consequences.

Negotiations continued yesterday, with PD sources saying that there were serious areas of difficulty to be overcome. The parties have until 4pm today to reach agreement when a confidence motion in the government is taken in the Dáil.

The likeliest outcome in the affair is that a deal will be reached and that the PDs will vote with Fianna Fáil, since none of the parties wants a general election that will be unpopular with the public and would overstretch all parties' depleted finances.

Mr Haughey might survive, but many observers believe that he will be a lame duck until a formal challenge is mounted later this year or early next.

People of Ulster to have a say

AN INDEPENDENT commission of enquiry into public views on a political settlement in Northern Ireland is likely to be set up early next year, its organisers confirmed yesterday (Edward Gorman writes).

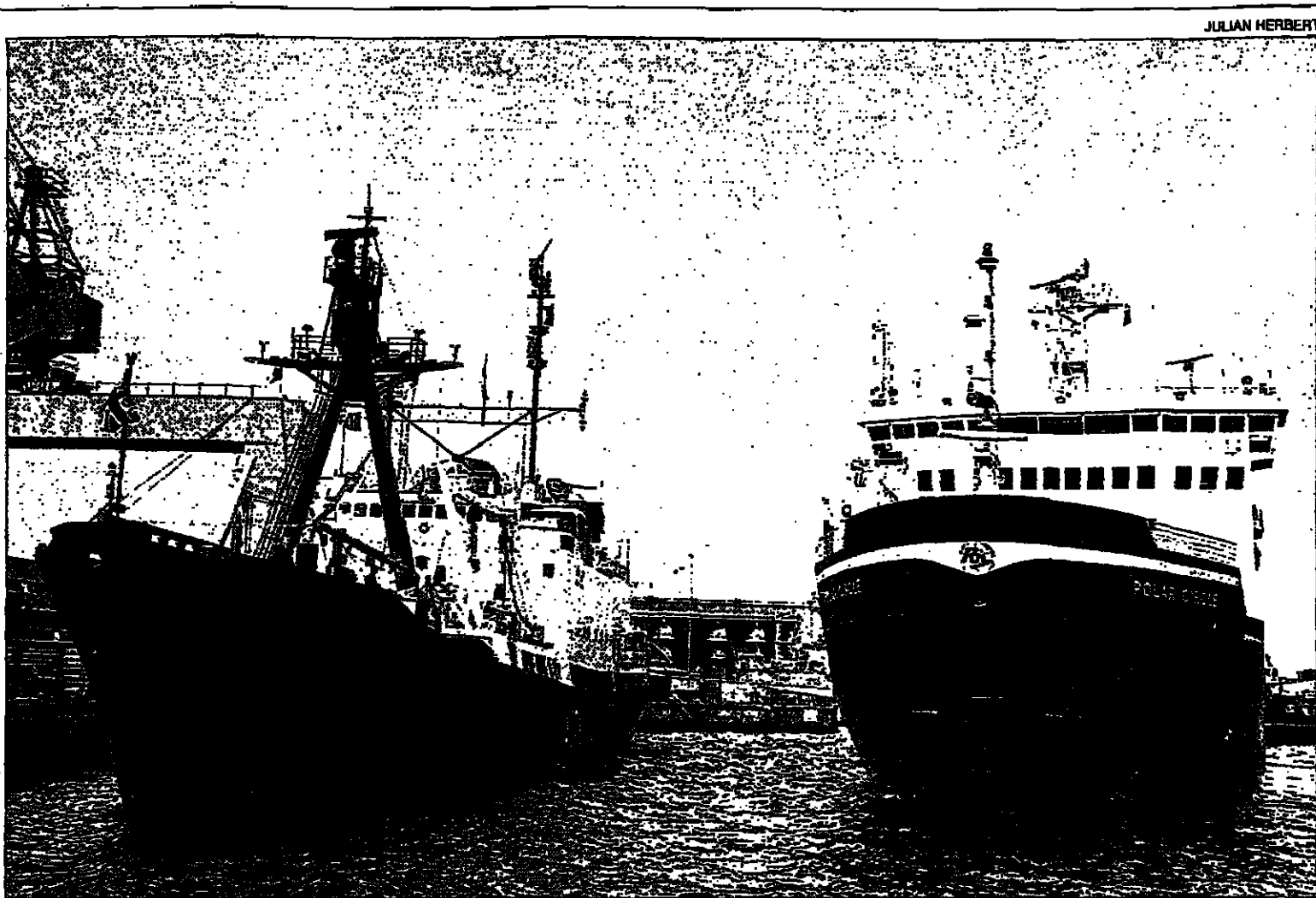
The enquiry reflects widespread frustration with government policy and the failure of the province's leaders to reach agreement over 21 years. It is the idea of Robin Wilson, editor of the Northern Ireland current affairs magazine *Fortnight*, and Simon Lee, English-born professor of jurisprudence at Queen's University, Belfast.

Mr Wilson believes government initiatives have taken insufficient account of the public's views and alienated many talented people. "An independent commission of enquiry offers the best approach to secure an opening in the political logjam," he said.

The impetus for the enquiry is the recent failure of efforts by Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, and opinion polls showing enthusiasm for progress and suggesting that party leaders are out of touch with their supporters.

A steering group of community, church, business, trade union and academic figures is looking for up to five commissioners, at least one of whom is expected to come from each of mainland Britain, Northern Ireland, and the Republic. The chairman could come from abroad.

Politicians have given the commission a guarded welcome.



Bowing out: HMS Endurance, left, the ice patrol ship that went into retirement yesterday after 35 years' service, is passed at Portsmouth docks by Polar Circle, the Norwegian ship which will take over her duties in the South Atlantic until a permanent replacement is found

Arrested saboteurs awarded damages

By JOHN YOUNG

NINE hunt saboteurs who were falsely arrested and imprisoned after a meeting of the Old Berkeley Beagles in 1989 were awarded a total of £12,000 in damages by Aylesbury county court, yesterday.

However, the jury rejected their claim that police had deliberately overheated cells they were kept in at Aylesbury police station, Buckinghamshire.

Judge Morton Jack, who had already ruled that the plaintiffs had been unlawfully imprisoned, said the jury's task was to decide whether there was a trespass against the person by the police.

Either police were trying to hide something, and had put their heads together, which was an ugly allegation, or the saboteurs had put their heads together to come up with the overheating claim, which was an ugly allegation.

Only one plaintiff, Eric Staples, aged 25, of Swanley, Kent, claimed successfully for trespass. He said a police helicopter flew too close to him. Thames Valley Police is considering appeals.

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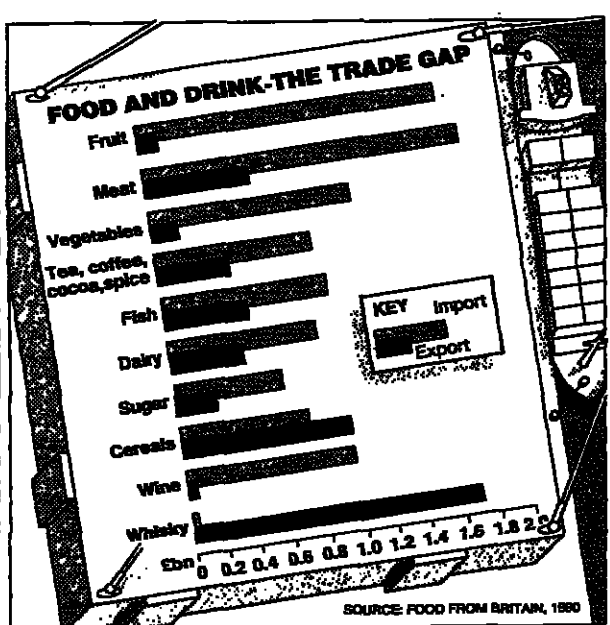
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Food exporters 'need more help'

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN is failing to reduce a £6 billion deficit in the food and drink trade because the government gives the industry far less financial support than its continental counterparts, according to a report yesterday.

Paul Judge, chairman of Food from Britain, the official body promoting British exports, said that the government did not appreciate what was at stake in an industry employing 1.5 million people and accounting for 42 per cent of Britain's trade gap.

"The British food industry itself must improve its marketing and export activities, but government must take responsibility for seeing that the industry competes on the same footing as other member states," Mr Judge said. Government support for agriculture was significantly lower than in other European community states. Food from Britain had a budget last year of

£7.5 million, of which £3 million came from the industry and £4.5 million from the government, Mr Judge said. The equivalent French body had a budget of more than £50 million, of which £27 million came from the government, and employed 32 people in its London office. Food from Britain could only afford to base four people in Paris.

Mr Judge said a concerted effort by government and industry could eliminate the food and drink deficit within 10 years. Discussion with food companies and retailers suggested that food and drink imports, now around £12 billion a year, could be cut by about £3.7 billion, and exports raised from £6 billion to £8 billion.

Half of the imports were of foodstuffs that could not be grown in Britain but about £4.5 billion worth were accounted for by meat, vegetables and dairy products from other northern European countries.

Carey defends his attack on inner-city deprivation

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday renewed his criticisms of the poverty, social deprivation and inequalities within inner cities.

Dr George Carey, undaunted by attacks on his view that the Tyneside riots were linked to social deprivation and illiteracy, said that it was not enough to feel outrage about the violence and it was "right to be angry about inequality and injustice".

Speaking at a Church Urban Fund conference in central London, he repeated his pledge to maintain a high political profile. "The church will continue to teach and to bear witness to what the Christian faith instructs about the way we should deal with each other in society."

Of media pressure to express outrage at the riots during his recent visit to Newcastle upon Tyne, Dr Carey said: "Of course I condemn unreservedly behaviour which causes fear and danger to people, damage to property and which destroys peace and good order."

Christian morality, he said, was rooted in a God of order.

"But while I want to do all I can to support order, I'm less convinced that outrage is a sufficient and adequate response to those recent disturbances or riots." He said that

anger was one of the most powerful of God-given emotions. "In our personal, spiritual and public lives anger can be a powerful force, and controlled anger can do a great deal of good. It is right to be angry about inequality and injustice."

He denied that his speech contained veiled criticisms of the government and said that he welcomed its inner-city programme.

His comments, however, could not realistically be divorced from political reaction to his earlier comments, made in the wider context of a speech on education. Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, said that he had been waiting with increasing sadness for a senior churchman to speak out and condemn the acts of violence.

Dr Carey, referring to his critics, said: "Of course there will be differences of view. Those who take pleasure in concentrating on those differences and portraying them as conflicts will always find some grist for their mills." Although he condemned the violence and called for partnership and a "shared vision" as the key to economic and social regeneration, he spoke of the need for the church to help those who were "trapped in their anger" to learn how to express it constructively.

"The problems of our inner cities and of isolated housing estates around them are very serious," he said. "Let there be no mistaking that there are people there in great need and poverty. They yearn to live lives with the same sort of opportunities as everyone else. The future of our cities depends on finding ways of ensuring that they have opportunities to help themselves. We must have confidence and faith in those people."



Carey: "It is right to be angry about injustice"



Penny-farthing for his thoughts: Derek Roberts, seen through the wheel, at the launch of *Cycling History - Myths and Queries* (John Pinkerton, £12.95) at the Science Museum, London, yesterday. His book uses the question and answer form to trace the development of the bicycle

Timeshare 'gift' firm fined

By PAUL WILKINSON

FREE "gifts" offered to persuade people to attend a timeshare promotion cost the suppliers more than £6,000 in fines and costs at Kingston magistrates' court in south-west London. The items were intended to entice customers to promotions by Globe Link Marketing, a Surrey firm highlighted by *The Times* earlier this year for aggressive marketing.

In what is believed to be the first successful prosecution of its kind, the Exeter supplier, Flair Marketing, and its manager, Scott Tomlinson, admitted three charges each of misleading customers and

were fined a total of £5,668 with £436 costs. Flair admitted breaches of the Trade Descriptions Act and the Consumer Protection Act by claiming to offer free gifts and by giving a misleading description of a video camera offered as a prize.

Ted Forsyth, director of Kingston trading standards department, said that a canvasser told one potential customer she would win a sports boat if she attended a two-hour presentation. After the presentation, however, she was told that she had to pay £48.50 to obtain it.

In January another woman

was told that she had won a VHS video camera but was later told she had to pay £86 for it. The company also misleadingly suggested that the camera, which recorded in black and white, would record in colour.

William Webb, for Flair Marketing, said that the company was paid on the basis of the numbers that went through Globe Link's doors. The wording of its invitations was based on those used by other timeshare companies and it had not taken legal advice. It believed that Globe Link was marketing its produce as free gifts.

Camra fights to save 'real pubs'

By JOHN YOUNG

THE British pub is in danger of becoming a licensed amusement arcade, with video machines in every corner, or a psychedelic cocktail bar with drinks served in plastic test tubes, Jeff Evans, editor of the *Camra Good Beer Guide*, said yesterday.

At a reception to mark the organisation's 21st birthday, Camra officials said that they would fight as hard to protect traditional British pubs, many of whose tenants were threatened with eviction, as they had done to save cask-conditioned real ales from being supplanted by keg beers during the 1970s.

Mr Evans said that tenants could become an endangered species as a result of government attempts to reduce the powers of the big breweries and limit the numbers of tied houses.

The breweries were attempting to evade their responsibilities by replacing tenants with managers, tenants who elected to stay on faced rents two or three times their present level.

Policeman witness found dead at home

A policeman was found dead at home yesterday after being accused of framing a fellow officer in a court case.

PC Paul Mason, aged 43, was found dead in Haverlee, Exeter, two days after giving evidence against an officer accused of assaulting a handcuffed prisoner. PC Mason was a witness in the continuing trial at Exeter crown court of PC Bryan Hepburn, who has denied causing actual bodily harm to David Coker during a struggle to arrest him after a domestic dispute.

PC Mason said he saw PC Hepburn, aged 29, kick Mr Coker three times in the head at his Exeter home. He was cross-examined by Christopher Wilson-Smith, who accused him of framing PC Hepburn after causing Mr Coker's injuries himself.

Dealer's death

A drug dealer was killed for trying to muscle in on a south London territory, an inquest was told. Hopeton Daley, aged 30, was shot in Deptford soon after arriving in Britain from Jamaica. Southwark coroner's court was told. Sir Montague Levine, coroner, recorded a verdict of unlawful killing.

Player guilty

Sandy Robertson, a Rangers footballer, was yesterday found guilty at Edinburgh Sheriff Court of punching a woman who plucked his hair in an Edinburgh nightclub. He was told to pay her £1,500 compensation. Katherine Egan denied making sectarian remarks against him.

Poster charge

A Sheffield man appeared in court accused of displaying posters likely to cause alarm or distress after complaints about rock concert advertising showing the moors murderers. The case was adjourned.

M27 alert

Police banned traffic from the M27 fearing that a military aircraft circling over Hampshire might have to land on it, but the pilot managed to come in at Eastleigh airport.

Labour again enact

By PETER W...

THE Labour leadership made a point yesterday that it would not cooperate with the government's proposals to speed up the process of privatisation.

GEORGE, who killed a woman, was a common to a usually a white man between 25 and 35, with a shaggy head and with a pent-up anger over grime and real or imagined

As police yesterday on Tennard's "triggering eye" he single incident which sparks a killer's ramp, experts said his behaviour conformed to the pattern which has sent at least other men on similar mix of random murder over a past decade. I surely a mass killers have little ground of psychology, it but, sudden and high stable, they are regarded "human timebombs" by who know them.

Hennard's death described him in 19 these terms. Rampage differ from serial killer murder strangers over period. These are other paths who feel power repeatedly kill in an control others. Unlike murderers, serial killer need a preoccupation as they last after the that their crime from Mass killers make no statement" before s

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Although five years to run, the Motherland party which he once led as prime minister faces defeat at the polls.

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Labour stands firm against help to enact council tax

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

THE Labour leadership made plain yesterday that it would not co-operate with the government's attempts to push through at high speed its bill abolishing the poll tax and replacing it with a council tax.

At the same time, the government continued its fightback over the health service by portraying its decision to stage a Commons debate on health next Monday as evidence of its increasing confidence on an issue where Labour has consistently made the running. Its claim was instantly denied by Labour, which alleged that it had been pressing all week for a debate and was relishing the prospect of again taking on William Waldegrave, the health secretary, over his plans for national health service trusts.

The debate will be held on the last full day of this parliamentary session. The next session will be dominated by the council tax, and Labour sources claimed yesterday that it would be impossible for the bill to go through before next April without breaching the normal parliamentary conventions for intervals between the various legislative stages of the bill.

The council tax is the government's top priority in its new programme of legislation to be unveiled in the Queen's Speech on October 31. The government wants it to go through as quickly as possible to give John Major maximum flexibility over the timing of the election. Ministers need to get it enacted before the election to fulfil their promise that the new tax will be in operation on April 1, 1993.

Even if the bill is introduced into Parliament during the Queen's Speech debate, Labour says the accepted procedure of a gap of at least two weeks between first and second readings would mean that second reading could not come before November 11. There is usually at least a two-week gap between second reading and committee stages, making November 25 the earliest date for committee stage.

Labour claims that the only

COMMONS

way the government could get the bill to the Lords by January would be to restrict the committee stage to between six and eight committee days because of the time needed by parliamentary draftsmen to make the necessary changes to the bill for the report stage. They add that similar requirements in the Lords and the possibility that the bill might not be popular with some Tory peers means that royal assent is unlikely before April.

Outlining Labour's strategy on the council tax yesterday, David Blunkett, the local government spokesman, said: "The mistakes of the poll tax are being revisited in the council tax and the attempt to rush it through without adequate parliamentary scrutiny, simply to provide John Major with flexibility over the election date, may prove disastrous for the government. Labour will ensure proper debate of the proposals

throughout their parliamentary passage — we will not co-operate with attempts to guillotine discussion."

Mr Blunkett added: "The tragedy is that once again an opportunity has been missed to agree a durable and rational method of raising local taxes, which would have made the poll tax not merely a nightmare to be endured, but a learning process out of which could come a brighter dawn for local government."

Meanwhile, both sides were tussling for the credit for Monday's health debate. Tory MPs cheered the news when it was announced by John MacGregor, the Commons leader. However, Labour claimed equal pleasure at the announcement and said that the government had decided to hold the debate only because there was every likelihood that the Speaker would have granted a request for an emergency debate on Monday from Robin Cook, the shadow health secretary.

John Grigg, page 16



Blunkett: Labour will insist on proper scrutiny

Ministers' pay squeeze causes ripple of worry

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

DOWNING Street's disclosure that John Major is making ready to impose a further squeeze on ministers' salaries in January has sent a ripple of anxiety through the ranks of the payroll vote.

According to official figures obtained by *The Times*, the differential between the pay of ministers and backbenchers has narrowed over the past decade. Nowhere is this more apparent than at cabinet level. In 1979, the most senior members of the government were paid 2.64 times more than humble backbenchers. This year, that ratio is little more than 2:1 and, with the prime minister planning to demand that his ministerial colleagues again set an example of pay restraint, the gap will close further.

Under the formula linking MPs' pay to that of senior civil servants, MPs are assured a rise of 6.5 per cent, well above inflation. Ministers will get markedly less when Mr Major, like Margaret Thatcher before him, exercises his discretion over salary levels.

The same trends are apparent at the most junior rung on the ladder. In 1979, par-

SALARIES

liamentary secretaries earned 1.57 times more than backbenchers. Now the figure is only 1.46 times.

In the run-up to an election, Mr Major can be confident that any rumblings about ministerial salary levels will remain safely below the parapet. Nevertheless, some ministers, with memories still fresh of more lucrative days combining an MP's salary with earnings from outside interests, are showing signs of resentment.

One junior minister said that, while the occasional MP refused a government job because he could not afford the consequent drop in salary, there were many more who eventually gave up the struggle to bring up a family on between £40,000 and £60,000 a year. "There is the odd person who refuses a ministerial job because of the money. More commonly, they try to get by until their bank manager and their overdraft between them force them to stand down from ministerial office. At that point, it is not a question of choice."

A cabinet minister expressed much the same sentiments, pointing out that circumstances had changed markedly in the past decade. In previous times, when power passed fairly regularly between the two main parties, the average minister could reckon on a period out of office when, by taking on outside work, he could make up ground on his peers.

A different view came from Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover, who makes no complaint about his £28,970 a year. He said that ministers musing about their pay were the very people condemning Labour's plans for a minimum wage of £3.40 an hour for the poorest-paid workers.



Hospital drivers aided

Changes in the tax rules on car mileage allowances for hospital volunteer drivers will be phased in over a number of years, Francis Maude, Treasury financial secretary, said at question time.

Concern has been expressed since health authorities were told that volunteer drivers would have to pay tax when allowances exceeded costs.

Government help for Iraq

The government is to give further humanitarian aid to the people of Iraq, Lynda Chalker, the overseas aid minister, announced. About £500,000 is to be given to the British Red Cross for urgent medical supplies to be sent to Iraqi hospitals and clinics. The donation is part of a £1.7 million consignment of drugs, rice and tea being sent to Iraq by the British Red Cross.

Funeral fees

Funeral directors are being pressed to provide itemised estimates for funerals, Edward Leigh, consumer affairs minister, said in a written reply that he had asked the National Association of Funeral Directors to amend their code of conduct. He was still awaiting a reply.

BCCI scheme

The scheme to allow customers of BCCI in the UK to receive 75 per cent of their sterling deposits up to a maximum of £15,000 will come into operation from December 2, John Maples, Treasury economic secretary, said.

Scots Conservatives put on their guard

As the by-election nears, Scottish Tories are bracing themselves for the possible loss of their Kincardine and Deeside seat, reports Kerry Gill

Three weeks from today the Scottish Conservatives could well be licking their wounds, having suffered the loss of the Kincardine and Deeside by-election and seen their parliamentary representation in Scotland reduced to only nine seats. That would leave the Liberal Democrats with the second largest number of MPs north of the border.

Kincardine and Deeside is a diverse seat, covering part of Aberdeen, the small towns and villages of a farming community rolling up Royal Deeside to the edge of the Cairngorms, and the fishing villages on the North Sea coast.

Although represented for the Tories by Alick Buchanan-Smith for 27 years

until his recent death, much of the area has had a strong socialist tradition. The Conservatives have also been put on their guard by the rising support for the Liberal Democrats, who hold the neighbouring seats of Gordon and Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber. There is no doubt that Mr Buchanan-Smith's hold on the seat, albeit by a majority of little more than 2,000 in the 1987 general election, owed much to his personal following and his desire often to distance himself from

Thatcherite policies. Nicol Stephen, aged 31, the Liberal Democrat, was runner-up in 1987 and is widely expected to take the seat on November 7.

The Tory choice to fight the seat is Marcus Humphrey, an old Etonian laird aged 53, whose Dinnet estate marches with that of the Queen on the western fringe of the constituency. He seems as keen as Mr Buchanan-Smith was to distance himself from some of the Tories' more unpopular

policies. He is opposed to the amalgamation of the Gordon Highlanders with the Queen's Own Highlanders; he has expressed his dismay at proposals to allow Aberdeen Royal Infirmary to opt for health trust status and is believed to favour a decommissioning scheme to leave the beleaguered Scottish fishing fleet.

On local issues, the Tory, Labour and Liberal Democrat candidates seem to be largely in agreement, a confusing situation for the seat's 65,667 electors of whom more than a third live in Aberdeen, Scotland's third largest city. Unemployment is low — Aberdeen has enjoyed an economic boom based on North Sea oil and gas — and

Kincardine and Deeside has a broad economic base ranging from the oil and gas industries to farming, forestry, fishing and tourism.

Local Tories are nervous, which perhaps is why they chose the Laird of Dinnet, an old-style Tory prepared to rebel against current party policy, although Mr Humphrey said that he wished "to nail" his image as a Tory rebel.

The candidates: Mr Humphrey, Mr Stephen, Malcolm Savidge (Lab), Allan Macartney (SNP) and Stephen Campbell (Green).

General election: A. Buchanan-Smith (C), 19,438; N. Stephen (L), 17,378; J. Thomaneck (Lab), 7,624; F. Duncan (SNP), 3,082; L. Perica (Green), 299. C maj: 2,063

MPs begin voting for what might be Kinnock's cabinet

LABOUR MPs began voting last night in elections that will determine the shape of Neil Kinnock's cabinet if Labour wins the general election (Philip Webster writes).

Thirty-eight Labour MPs were nominated for the 18 elected posts that must, under the rules of the parliamentary party, form the basis of the first cabinet.

Martin O'Neill, the shadow defence secretary, and Kevin McNamara, the shadow Northern Ireland secretary, are making another attempt to be elected to the shadow cabinet. Success would avoid a dilemma for Mr Kinnock in the event of a Labour victory. Neither are elected members of the shadow cabinet and, although the Labour leader respects their abilities, he would clearly prefer to have elected figures in such sensitive posts. Mr Kinnock has little scope for personal appointments. Including himself and his deputy, Roy Hattersley, 20 of the posts will be elected and two others will be needed for the Lord Chancellor and leader of the Lords.

SHADOW PARTY

Mr Kinnock is expected to appoint to his cabinet additional members who would take the salaries of a minister of state, although that would be unusual. Under the rules Labour MPs must vote for at least three women candidates.

All the present members of the shadow cabinet are standing for re-election. They are: Margaret Beckett, Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, David Clark, Ann Clwyd, Robin Cook, Jack Cunningham, Donald Dewar, Frank Dobson, Bryan Gould, Barry Jones, Gerald Kaufman, Michael Meacher, John Prescott, Jo Richardson, John Smith, Jack Straw, and Ann Taylor.

Also standing are: Tony Banks, Tony Benn, Dennis Canavan, Bob Cryer, Tam Dalyell, Ron Davies, Llin Golding, Mildred Gordon, Bernie Grant, Harriet Harman, Joan Lester, Kevin McNamara, Martin O'Neill, George Robertson, Barry Sheerman, Clare Short, Clive Soley, Chris Smith, Gavin Strang, and Keith Vaz.

Parliament next week

PARLIAMENT will be prorogued on Tuesday and the Queen will open the new session, the last before the general election, on Thursday, October 31.

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be: Monday: Debate on a government motion on the NHS. Tuesday: Consideration of any Lords amendments to the export and investment guarantees bill.

The main business in the Lords is expected to be: Monday: export and investment guarantees bill, third reading. Tuesday: Debate on political union in the EC.

Parliament today Commons (9.30): Debate on the policing of London.

Park move criticised

THE government was criticised in the Lords yesterday for privatising the services in the royal parks before hearing the views of the review group it has set up to consider how the parks should be used in future (John Winder writes).

The group under Lady Jenkins of Hillhead (Dame Jennifer Jenkins) is expected to complete its work later this year. It was set up in the summer at the same time as the government announced the contracting out of the gardening and other work in the parks.

Lady Blatch, the heritage minister, said the government remained open to those who wanted to express their views. The review group had now received many suggestions.

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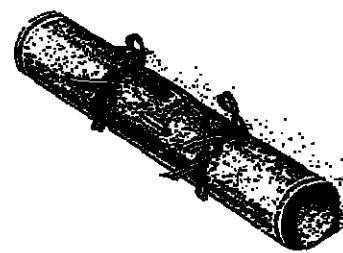
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European environment law

Heseltine seeks to expose backsliders

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

EUROPEAN Community countries that renege on their environmental commitments would be exposed in detail every year under a scheme to be proposed in Brussels by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary.

He is seeking to revolutionise EC environment policy with a monitoring programme of the green performance of all the member states, and of the European Commission itself. Such a system, he believes, would immediately

by tighten enforcement of EC environmental laws by disclosing annually those countries that failed to comply with them.

Although he declines to give examples, there are many EC environmental measures, such as the Italian government's unwillingness to enforce the Birds Directive by preventing the annual slaughter of thousands of birds of prey by Italian hunters.

In an interview with *The*

Times, Mr Heseltine said: "Many of the people who sign up to these directives don't do anything about them. We can have a position where directives are acclaimed with enthusiasm, and then shelved with dispatch, except in this country." He said that the idea that Britain was "the dirty man of Europe" was nonsense, pointing out that Britain was fourth out of the 12 member states in the present league table of compliance with community law.

To tighten compliance across Europe, Mr Heseltine wants Brussels to adopt the systematic management of environment policy he introduced in Britain this year. He is seeking a meeting with Carlo Ripa di Meana, the European environment commissioner, to propose that the commission copy his turning of the entire range of 352 commitments in the 1990 environment white paper into a list of targets with an annual, public progress report.

Ivory ban backed

BRITAIN is to send a minister to express the government's continued support for the international ivory trade ban at a UN conference that will consider reopening the trade. The move shows the government's determination to make its voice heard (Michael McCarthy writes).

Tony Baldry, a junior

environment minister, will lead a delegation to the meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in Japan next March, when six southern African countries will seek a lifting of the ban, which was imposed in 1989.

Leading article, page 17



Art regained: Anthea Pelham-Burne, left, and Valentine Walsh working at Islington Design Centre yesterday

Art fire restorers criticise planning

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

RESTORERS who undertook emergency work on paintings retrieved from last week's fire at the art shippers James Bourlet have criticised the company and loss adjusters for lack of disaster planning or precautions.

Damage by firemen's hoses could have been minimised, they say, had there been a list of restorers at hand as well as an order of priority for works to be saved. Paintings worth many millions of pounds were left to soak for 48 hours while police investigated the fire.

"I think it's a scandal that the loss adjusters didn't think of cutting down the loss by getting in conservators sooner," said Valentine Walsh.

A Bourlet spokesman said yesterday that after police permission to remove works of art from the strongroom, Bourlet's staff worked through the night of October 8-9 on a salvage operation. Specialist restorers worked throughout the next night.

Law Society conference

Indemnity costs 'unacceptable'

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

SOLICITORS' firms are under great strain and should no longer have to bear the costs of claims against dishonest or incompetent colleagues, Philip Ely, the Law Society president, said yesterday.

He said that during the recession the cost of staying in business had reached unacceptable levels and it was possible that some law firms would be driven out of business.

Mr Ely, addressing 600 solicitors at their annual conference in Brussels, said that one of the heaviest burdens on firms was the solicitors' indemnity fund. "Put crudely," he said, "does the existence of the fund encourage some solicitors to take risks they would not otherwise take, knowing that the rest of us are there to bail them out?"

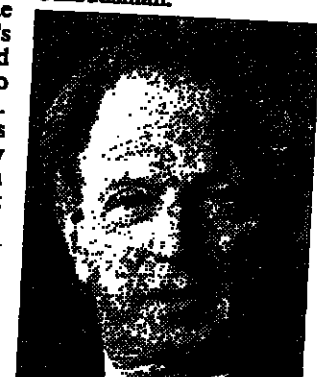
Mr Ely outlined proposals for a cap on the amount paid out by the fund to victims of dishonest solicitors and the shake-up of the profession's compulsory indemnity fund so solicitors would have to carry a higher share of the risk.

Together, those two funds this year are expected to pay out about £160 million in claims against solicitors. "It now costs the average firm something like £27,000 per year simply to stay in practice," Mr Ely said. The total annual cost of a practising certificate, investment business certificate, indemnity insurance, and contribution to the compensation fund was

£6,000 for a sole practitioner and £48,000 for a firm with ten partners. Mr Ely's speech was well received by the profession, which next year faces a 34 per cent rise in professional indemnity premiums. A partner in a small firm with an income of £100,000 is now likely to be paying £4,000 a year for insurance.

Lord Justice Woolf told the conference that the lack of compensation for a citizen who had been "subject to unlawful administrative activity" and had successfully challenged high-handed or unlawful decisions by public bodies, was one of the shortcomings of the court system.

As a result, a member of the public was not in as good a position before the English courts as he would be before the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg or if making a complaint to the Ombudsman.



Woolf: concern for rights of citizen

Car leaflets ruling is upheld

THE growing practice of sticking advertising leaflets under windscreen wipers in public car parks can amount to a criminal offence, the High Court ruled in a test case yesterday.

Two judges upheld a conviction by magistrates at Chichester, West Sussex, against David Hickman, a wine bar owner, for leaving leaflets on vehicles in a council car park. Mr Hickman, aged 44, of Caledonian Road, Chichester, was found guilty in June last year of "using a vehicle" while in a parking place "for a purpose in connection with trade or business" contrary to the by-laws and in breach of the 1984 Road Traffic Regulations.

In the first case of its kind to come before the High Court, Lord Justice Neill and Mr Justice McCullough ruled that in law a vehicle could be said to be "used" even though it was stationary and parked.

Mr Hickman maintained that the aim of the by-laws was not to prevent leafletting but the use in car parks of vehicles with audio or visual advertising equipment.

Blood test dragnet to find killer

Police hunting the sex killer of Angela Flaherty, aged seven, whose body was found in a children's den near her home ten weeks ago, are to ask for blood samples from 600 boys and men in an attempt to match them to traces left by the murderer.

The move was announced as Det Supt Peter Bottomley, leading the enquiry, said that the estate where Angela lived in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, was tearing itself apart, with friends and neighbours suspecting each other. Any samples matching the killer's blood group will be tested against his DNA profile.

Mr Bottomley said that samples would be requested from males aged 13 to 26. He said the Rawthorpe estate was being torn apart by suspicion.

House must go

Islington council has won a court order requiring Latif Hoory to demolish a house built in his back garden at Essex Road, Islington, or be fined £200 a day. The council said demolition would have to be by hand because bulldozers could not get on to the site.

Drivers charged

A publicised two-week police campaign focusing on the driving to and from work of staff at the Sellafield nuclear processing site in Cumbria has ended with 178 people being charged, including five for drink driving.

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Americans try to fathom mind of 'human timebomb' after 23 die in Texas cafe shooting

Hennard fits mould of mass killer

From CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

GEORGE Hennard, the man who killed 22 people in a Texas cafeteria, fits the standard profile of that increasingly common type, the American mass murderer. He is usually a white man aged between 25 and 35, very attached to his mother, a loner with a shaky ego and seething with pent-up anger over grievances real or imagined.

As police yesterday sought Hennard's "triggering event", the single incident which usually sparks a killer's rampage, experts said his behaviour conformed to the pattern which has sent at least 100 other men on similar missions of random murder over the past decade. Usually such mass killers have little background of psychiatric illness, but, sullen and highly irritable, they are regarded as "human timebombs" by those who know them.

Hennard's neighbours described him in precisely those terms. Rampage killers differ from serial killers, who murder strangers over a long period. These are often sociopaths who feel powerless and repeatedly kill in an attempt to control others. Unlike mass murderers, serial killers do not need a precipitating event and they lust after the celebrity that their crime brings them. Mass killers make one "social statement" before succumb-

ing to their own or police bullets.

Often the grievances of the mass killer are linked to the workplace. Dozens of Americans have been murdered over the past five years by disgruntled former employees who returned to wreak vengeance. A postal worker in New Jersey killed his boss and three others last weekend in the latest in a virtual epidemic of such attacks.

In the most famous case of the type, in 1987, an airline employee who had been sacked for stealing shot dead the pilots of an aircraft in midflight over California, killing all 43 aboard. In Hennard's case, the grudge appeared to be more general. The only hint of a motive came from letters he wrote to two sisters who lived nearby.

"Please give me the satisfaction of someday laughing in the face of all those mostly white treacherous female vipers from those two towns who tried to destroy me and my family," he said.

Jack Levin, a sociology professor who wrote a study called *Mass Murder: America's Growing Menace*, yesterday compared Hennard with Marc Lepine, the gunman who murdered 14 women at Montreal university in 1989. Such killers are spurred by a feeling of humiliation over the growing power



Last exit: officials at the restaurant in Killeen, Texas remove the pick-up truck in which Hennard launched his rampage

of women and set out to take revenge on society at large. "The more random the massacre, the more likely it is the killer is insane, delusional and paranoid." Referring to Hennard's reported cry that "this is what Bell County has

done to me!", Mr Levin said Bell County was probably an abstraction for the forces that he felt were arrayed against him. The more random the act, the greater are the chances that the killer is clinically insane, he said.

The first recorded incidents of mass murder coincided with the growth of cities and industrialisation in America. But it was rare, with only about one incident noted per decade until about the 1960s. Earlier cases involved mainly

the murder of a family by one of its members, a category which remains common. Many experts have traced the emergence of the random killer to the brutalising pressures apparent throughout American society.

Slaughter fails to sway gun lobby

From SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

THE deadliest mass shooting in American history looked unlikely yesterday to sway members of Congress to tighten gun control laws in a new anti-crime bill.

A close vote in the House of Representatives was expected last night on whether to retain from its draft package two measures banning gun magazines of more than seven rounds and certain types of semi-automatic assault weapons. But supporters of gun control expressed doubts about the deaths' impact.

The lower house began debate on the issue as police in Texas tried to find out how George Hennard, aged 35, obtained a Glock semi-automatic pistol which he used to kill 22 people in a crowded Texas cafeteria before turning the gun on himself in an apparent suicide.

Those wavering before the vote faced formidable lobbying by the National Rifle Association, which argues that criminals will get their hands on weapons and ammunition anyway and that law-abiding

citizens should not be denied their constitutional right to bear arms in self-defence. Mr Hennard's pistol was fitted with a 17-round magazine that allowed him to spray fire on diners, although a 19-round model of the partly plastic weapon is also available.

Thomas Foley, the Democratic House speaker, said the clause on semi-automatic assault weapons in the evolving bill would not cover the type of gun used in the massacre. He also predicted that the scheduled vote would be "very close" on an amendment by a conservative Democrat to drop the two measures.

The shooting on Wednesday in Killeen "will probably, if anything, push the vote closer to some kind of restriction on assault weapons", Mr Foley said, although many people would argue that there is no logical connection. But the speaker, himself a member of the NRA, added he was not sure that the effect would be great enough "to actually ban assault weapons".

Middle East talks come a step nearer

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO AND RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

IN THE Middle East yesterday diplomatic speculation was rife that Presidents Bush and Gorbachev would fly to Lausanne, Switzerland, to act as co-hosts at the opening of a regional peace conference if James Baker, the US Secretary of State, succeeds in convening the talks as planned on October 29.

The semi-official Egyptian press quoted government sources in the Soviet Union as saying unequivocally that the two presidents would attend. White House officials did little to dampen the notion, emphasising that no final decision had yet been taken. "They both would be interested in getting the peace conference off to a good start," said Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, in reference to the two leaders. "But at this point, we just are not willing to make a commitment."

Soviet sources said that Mr Gorbachev was anxious to attend in person to demonstrate to the world that Moscow still had an important role to play in the Middle East. On Wednesday, he sent a message to a session of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's leadership in Tunis urging them to take part in the conference.

In the message, the Soviet leader urged the 90-strong central council of the PLO, which was convening to try to reach a decision on participation, to "take a positive stand towards the peace process". He added that the Palestinians, "with Soviet support for

their rights" would play an essential part in the peace process. In Jerusalem yesterday, Boris Rankin, the Soviet foreign minister, came to the aid of Mr Baker as the superpowers attempted to overcome last-minute obstacles to their initiative.

The problem of Palestinian representation moved one more step towards resolution at the PLO session at a secret location in Tunis. The council gave the go-ahead for seven Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to attend the conference as part of a joint delegation with Jordan. The decision, which came after a plea for flexibility from Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, was seen as further evidence that the Palestinians will finally agree to attend the conference despite what they regard as humiliating conditions. According to informed Palestinian sources, the council approved the list and authorised Mr Arafat to conclude a "political accord" with Jordan regarding the operational details of the delegation, which is due to include seven Jordanians.

Among the Palestinian delegates put forward were Elias Freij, who has gained international recognition as the mayor of Bethlehem, Radwan Abu Ayash, a native of the Askar refugee camp in Nabulus and former head of the Arab Journalists' Association, and Ziad Abu Ziad, a lawyer from a village near Jerusalem who edits the pro-PLO Hebrew language newspaper *Geshet*.

Israel has insisted it will not negotiate with any Palestinians who are members of the PLO, live in Arab east Jerusalem, or reside outside the occupied territories, so it was expected that the PLO list would contain a dozen or so academics, journalists and doctors from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Palestinians are planning to send a second team of leaders from Jerusalem who would not sit at the negotiating table, but direct the official Palestinian delegation inside the chamber. "We are reaching a critical moment," said Sari Nusseibeh, the Oxford educated Palestinian leader, who is expected to meet Mr Baker today but is barred from selection because he comes from Jerusalem.

Ozal view on Cyprus in balance

From ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

AS PRESIDENT Ozal's prospects of emerging unscathed from Sunday's Turkish election disappear, the impact on foreign policy is being calculated.

The pro-northern Cypriot lobby is taking some satisfaction that Turkey's commitment to seeing through a political settlement may now dwindle. Western diplomats portray Mr Ozal as one of the few politicians in Turkey to realise the price the country pays internationally for its lone support of a Turkish republic in northern Cyprus. Mr Ozal is known to have promoted during a visit by President Bush to Turkey last July, the current round of negotiations which are intended to culminate in a four-way summit in New York by the end of the year.

Although Mr Ozal still has five years to run, the Motherland party which he once led as prime minister faces defeat at the polls.



Finkel helping Baker to overcome final obstacles

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*D.O.T. official fuel economy figures for 205 XLD: 72.4mpg at constant 56mph, 54.3mpg at constant 75mph, 52.3mpg simulated urban driving. Car illustrated 205 XLD 19.05N, 309 GLD 110.200 (sunroof extra) and 405 GLD 113.480. All figures correct at time of going to press and subject to availability. Includes estimated on the road costs of 6 months Road Tax, Delivery and Number Plates. Metallic paint extra. Average cost £1.59 a gallon of diesel, on £250 = 125.48 gallons. Offers apply to new 205/309/405 diesel cars (excluding 205 van) registered between 2nd September and 31st November 1991. Applies to UK residents, excluding nationally negotiated fleets, tax free and employee sales and Northern Ireland where different offers apply.

AT VIRTUALLY the last minute the Ukraine has announced that it will not sign an inter-republican Soviet economic agreement today.

While President Gorbachev is bound to try to change the Ukrainian leaders' mind, the move by the union's second-largest republic strikes at the heart of the agreement. Mr Gorbachev had hoped that the agreement, to be signed by at least ten republics, would maintain the framework of a joint economy and presage an agreement on some form of political union.

The Ukrainian move seems, at first glance, likely to scupper Mr Gorbachev's plans to retain a unified economic space. But in current Soviet politics, in which governments in both Russia and the Ukraine often act with haste and incompetence, the Ukraine's refusal to sign may not be final.

Earlier this week, Vitold Fokin, the Ukraine's prime minister, confirmed that the Ukraine would be willing to thrash out an agreement. Yesterday the Ukraine's presidium said no. Today, after some hard bargaining between Kiev and Moscow, Mr

Gorbachev's attempt to keep a unified economy is in the balance as the Soviet bread basket rejects his plan, write Mary Dejevsky and Robert Seely

Gorbachev might manage to keep the two vital powers in the union.

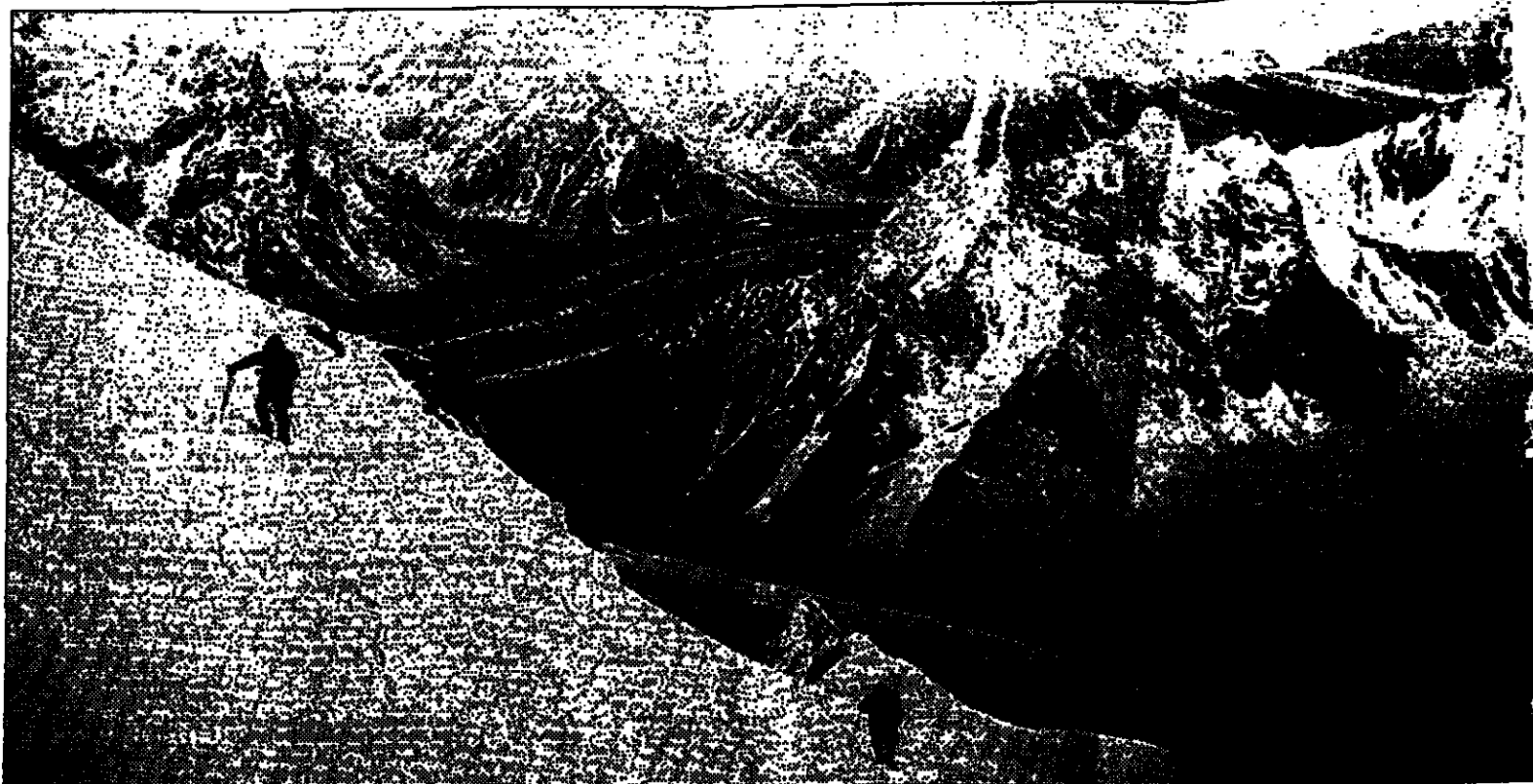
The Ukrainians have, for the moment, rejected the treaty because their objections to the blueprint laid out in Alma Ata have not been answered. Kiev's displeasure centres on the view there that the treaty will not entail real political independence for the republics. The Ukraine wants its own currency, and its own customs and border posts to protect its agricultural produce. Almost 25 per cent of Soviet food supplies come from the wealthy Ukraine.

In Moscow, officials yesterday tried desperately to stem speculation that the agreement could again be postponed. Arkadi Volsky, a pro-Gorbachev member of the interim economic committee which currently functions as

the Soviet government, said he was confident that it would be signed.

Negotiations on the three-year agreement, which incorporates most of the economic aspects of the ill-fated Union Treaty, have been slow and difficult. The agreement sets out terms for an economic union (not, to the distress of some, a community or commonwealth) in which signatories pledge to abide by a common policy on currency, the money supply, taxation, customs regulations and pricing. They also undertake to fulfil all contracted deliveries — or provide the hard currency value of the goods to the receiving republic if they fail to deliver.

The chief problem is that all participants want to move directly from a system in which all lost out to an omnipotent centre to one in which they all gain. Republican leaders need to demonstrate to consumers that an agreement is in their interests. For the leaders of Russia in particular, that is not easy. All they can do is warn of the consequences of failure to agree, and utter dire threats of economic breakdown.



Aiming high: climbers recently trekking to the summit of Everest the hard way. From next year tourists will be able to book guided tours to the 29,028ft peak, the world's highest. Describing the trip as the ultimate travel experience, Himalayan Kingdoms, an agency specialising in high adventure, will from the autumn of 1993 take 15 clients, each willing to pay £11,000, up the legendary moun-

tain. "We are looking for people with climbing experience up to about 23,000 feet," Stephen Bell, the agency's director of expeditions, said. "But it is vital that they also be good team members." He said personal compatibility was almost more important than experience because Himalayan storms often forced climbers to share a high-altitude tent. "Everest is no place for individualists," he said. "We

need adventurous and easy-going people: one disruptive team member will spoil it for everyone." Mr Bell has so far received deposits from 23 hopefuls whose ages range from 26 to 58 years. One person who has already been confirmed for the expedition is the actor Brian Blessed, aged 54. He has previously climbed higher than 25,000ft, dressed in hobnail boots and tweeds like those worn by George

Mallory, his boyhood hero who died on a British Everest expedition in 1924. Others who have signed up for the 1993 climb include a Venezuelan woman doctor, a Finnish bricklayer and climbers from America, Britain and Australia. The 71-day expedition will attempt the South Col, following in the route of Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tensing, who first conquered the peak. (Reuters)

FROM MICHAEL EVANS IN TAORMINA, SICILY
AND IAN MURRAY IN BONN

GERHARD Stoltenberg, the German defence minister, was subjected to a barrage of

On the subject of the Franco-German force, Herr Stoltenberg tried to persuade his colleagues that the whole idea was to draw the French more closely into Nato structures. Judging by the reactions of some of his colleagues, however, exactly what the Germans had in mind re-

The British and American ministers in particular wanted to be convinced that the Germans and French were not trying to create a "stand-alone" force. Tom King, the defence secretary, said last night that he had spoken quite

The ministers had gathered in Taormina to discuss the way forward for Nato nuclear strategy and to resolve how many nuclear bombs should

Mr King and Richard Cheney, the American defence secretary, raised a whole series of questions. "We wanted to know what role was envisaged for this force, where it would be deployed and what German forces would be assigned to

Mr King said the decision to reduce by half the number of air-launched bombs meant that Nato's tactical missiles and bombs will have been reduced to a tenth of the total ten years ago. Without giving precise figures he said the

Nato ends

BY MICHAEL EVANS

NATO defence ministers have learnt with dismay that nuclear planning group meetings, to which they normally most look forward because of their varied, sometimes ex-

But to celebrate the 50th meeting, the ministers are in the hillside Sicilian resort of Taormina. But it will be their last with a view.

Since 1967, when the group held its inaugural meeting in

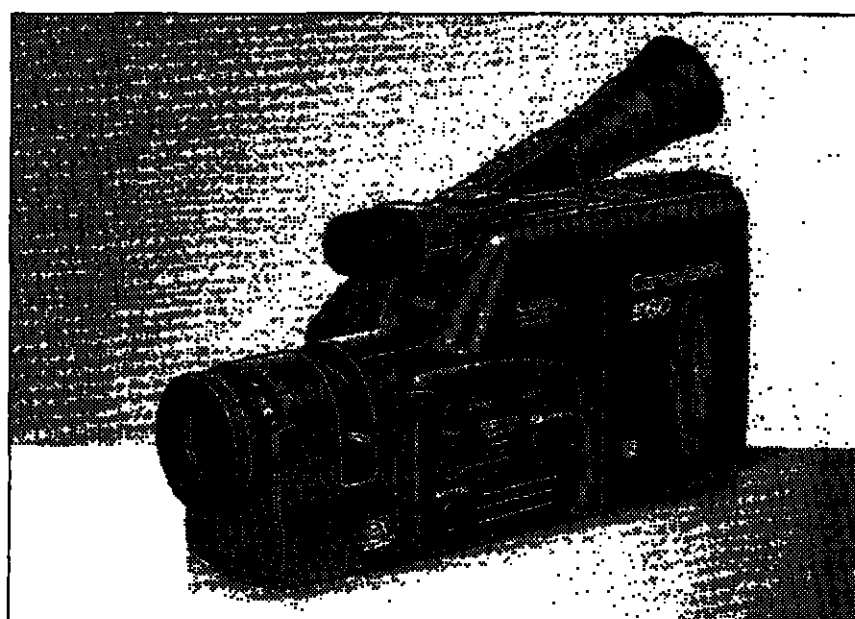
held its inaugural meeting in Washington, followed by two meetings annually, ministers have discussed nuclear matters in 31 places. Their top ten locations, taking into account weather, views, food, recreation and security, are: London, Paris, Bonn, Rome, Madrid, Athens, Ankara, Moscow, Beijing and New Delhi.

weather, views, food, recreational options and shopping for their wives, have been: Venice, Monterey in California, Colorado Springs, Stresa and Bari in Italy.

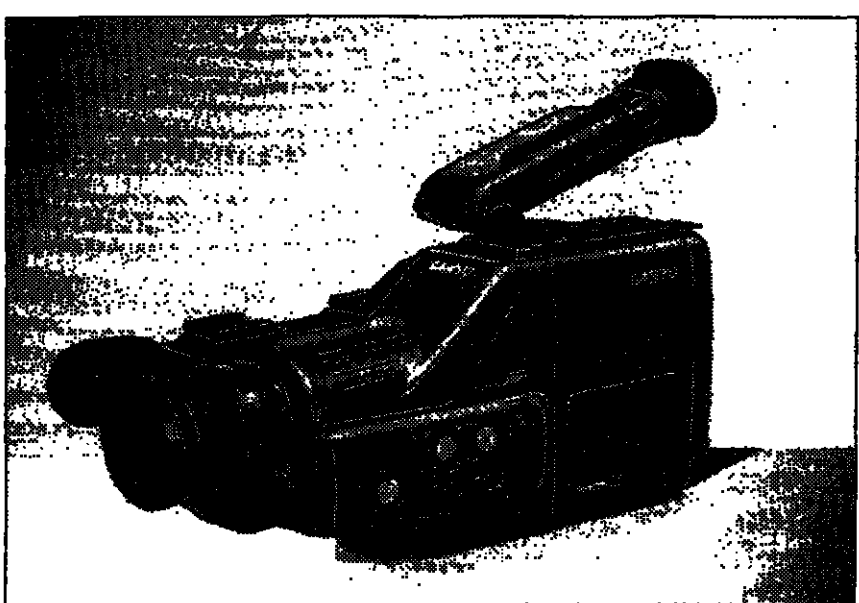
Siemens and his family in Italy, Vilamouira and Almansil in Portugal, Montealejo in Canada, Cesme in Turkey and now Taormina. The most visited places have been Brussels (ten times), The Hague (four times), London (three times) and Genoa (twice).

The 51st meeting had been planned for Würzburg in Germany but that has now been cancelled. In future both the group meeting and the defence ministers' other regular outing, the defence planning committee meeting, will both be conducted in Nato's exceptionally unattractive Brussels headquarters.

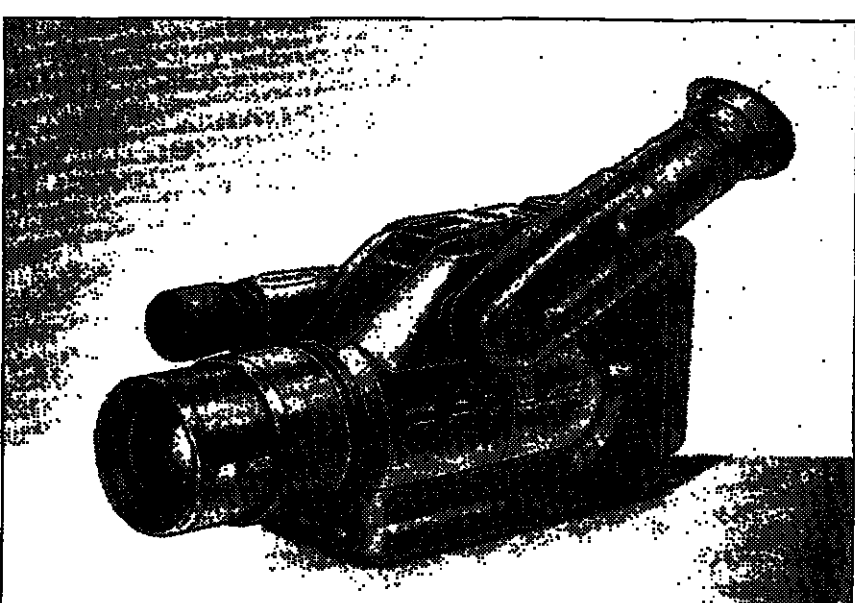
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Stoltenberg: "stunned by reaction of colleagues"

Hand-to-hand battles rage in Croatian town as army leads attack

By Vjekoslav Radovic in Negoslavci and Our Foreign Staff

SERBS and Croats fought hand-to-hand battles in the besieged Croatian town of Vukovar yesterday as Yugoslav army tanks spearheaded an attack. Croatian radio said the tanks, backed by infantry and Serbian irregulars, thrust across the Danube into a suburb of the town.

Thousands of Croat soldiers and civilians earlier joined a mass exodus from besieged Croatian areas, as the federal army appeared prepared for a final onslaught on the breakaway republic.

In another offensive the Yugoslav army yesterday attacked the area around the



medieval city of Dubrovnik on Croatia's Adriatic coast, Tanjug news agency reported. The attack was a land, air and sea offensive, it said.

Amid scenes of mass confusion, up to 8,000 Croats left the town of Ilok, downstream of Vukovar on the Danube boundary with Serbia. They had opted to leave the town, located on an indefensible spit of land sticking deep into Serbia, after the federal army last week ordered the defenders to surrender or face an all-out assault.

After the Croats said they would surrender, the army declared it would guarantee the safety of any civilians who chose to remain. But it was

unclear whether any would, given their fear of the armed Serbs who are likely to follow the federal troops into Ilok. "Nobody is forcing these people out of Ilok, least of all the army," said Colonel Petar Grahovac, the commander of the army unit that entered the town.

From the village of Negoslavci, four miles on the other side of Vukovar, army artillery poured round after round on to the town. Federal air force jets flew overhead as black smoke rose from Vukovar. There was also fighting in towns around Vukovar and in several other parts of Croatia, further denting peace hopes on the eve of a European Community conference on Yugoslavia in The Hague.

"They are... perhaps the heaviest attacks since the beginning of hostilities," the radio said. It said 20 tanks and more than 100 soldiers from the federal army had pushed into Vukovar.

Tanjug news agency in Belgrade, the Serbian and Yugoslav capital, quoted military sources as saying the Croats had tried to reinforce their positions in Vukovar and had opened fire on army units in nearby Osijek.

Croatian radio said heavy casualties were feared in Vukovar. It said five people were killed and 17 were wounded in overnight fighting in Nova Gradiska, in central Croatia. A federal warplane was shot down over nearby Osijek. The radio also reported that the western town of Otocac had been attacked from the air yesterday morning but gave no details.

Yugoslav generals stage final push to avoid humiliation

By ROGER BOYES, EAST EUROPE CORRESPONDENT

THE Yugoslav army, which yesterday spearheaded a fierce attack on Vukovar, may have embarked on its last key offensive for some months. Since last month, the generals have been determined to break the siege of trapped garrisons in eastern Croatia and ensure an unbroken line of communications throughout Slavonia with its mixed Serb and Croat communities.

A new urgency surrounds yesterday's offensive: there are a few external factors — above all the need to secure eastern Croatia before an oil embargo depletes the army's fuel reserves — but the main reason for swift action is that the generals are confronting that most persuasive of military scenarios, the prospect of a war on many fronts. This possibility, triggered by the threat of a declaration of

independence from Bosnia-Herzegovina, is changing the terms of the political debate in Yugoslavia. Paradoxically it might, at least for a short time, improve the chances of the various peace brokers from the European Community, the United Nations and Moscow.

Throughout the summer the high command was very careful not to overstretch its resources. After a humiliating setback in the eight-day war in June against Slovenia, General Blagoje Adzic, the chief of staff, declared that the army should concentrate on Croatia and defend the Serbian enclaves there. "We will carry things through to the end," he had told field officers.

But the "end" is no longer so obvious. The Croat government of Franjo Tudjman has not been overthrown — one possible military aim — while the broader goal of achieving a "greater Serbia" is growing more complicated by the day. To establish a "greater Serbia" the army needs to do more than keep hold of the Serbian enclaves in Croatia: it must also move in on behalf of the Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Yet to do so would meet certain resistance from Bosnian Muslims and Croats. That was plain from this week's session of the Bosnian parliament at which deputies declared their readiness to declare independence if Yugoslavia falls apart. Since that declaration of intent, Bosnian deputies have been taking the precaution of wearing bullet-proof vests.

The Yugoslav high command now faces the following prospects:

□ The continuing, territorial and tactical war with Croatia is tying down huge numbers of soldiers and materiel in Slavonia. The barracks in Belgrade are virtually empty, and so are the army officers despite the printing of more money to pay for food and salary bills.

□ The army is also coming under more pressure in Slovenia. Today the deadline expires for the complete withdrawal of Yugoslav forces from Slovenia. The Slovene leadership has said that it will not allow further withdrawals after the deadline and will impound equipment as collateral against war reparations, reflecting Slovene confidence that the balance of power in Slovenia has shifted its way.

□ A continuing, even growing need to police Kosovo where ethnic Albanians, partly encouraged by the newly democratic regime in Tirana, are straining at the leash, will overstretch the resources of the Yugoslav army.

Designer look goes from riches to rags



From LIZ SMITH
FASHION EDITOR
IN PARIS

THE Japanese designer Rei Kawakubo, who pioneered the deconstructed style of tailoring in the Eighties with her Comme des Garçons lop-sided jackets, often with backs and sleeves missing, has taken the rag-tag look a step further. In Paris yesterday she showed what looked like the makings of an interesting collection, but most of the clothes were unfinished.

Her fabrics ranged from the paper and calico of the first toile to lining silk. Pin-striped jackets and tan-coloured trenchcoats complete with lapels and epaulettes had raw edges, loose threads and bits missing. Jewellery and hosiery were improvised, and sketched on to the models' necks, arms and ankles. The catwalk was left as a bare boardwalk.

What might have been an amusing centre of the fashion business if the show had been limited, to just a few outfits at the start of the show, ended up as a farce. There were enough pretty ideas and beautiful fabrics to make the exercise frustrating to watch. None of the original ideas was carried off successfully.

Unfinished collection: Rei Kawakubo's designs for the Comme des Garçons fashion house (left and right) featured pretty ideas in the raw state, while Chantal Thomass used an African theme (centre) for part of her ready-to-wear collection

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Bonn minist
under fire
proposed for

Nato ends
meetings
in the sun

UK sets pace in Third World debt write off

Mr Major first set out his plan for the debt write-off at a Commonwealth finance minister's meeting when he was Chancellor in 1990. He has pursued it since then through the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations and the G7 meeting which he chaired in London in July. But he has been frustrated by the lack of progress and yesterday's move was designed to put pressure on a

Debt owed to the British government is \$1.3 billion out of the total, so some \$550 million would be written off. The countries standing to benefit the most are Zambia with £187 million in outstanding debt), Tanzania (£166 million), Guyana (£103 million), Zaire (£90 million) and Mozambique (£87 million). Under the arrangements proposed, the beneficiary countries would not

Canada, meanwhile, has taken the strongest stand so far on linking aid to good government, threatening to cancel aid to countries that do not adopt democratic systems. The threat was issued by Mr Mulroney in a private exchange with President Moi of Kenya, who is regarded as one of the more serious offenders against human rights because of his vigorous opposition to multiparty democracy. Canadian aid to Kenya totalled about £19 million in 1989 and 1990.



The Vatican has set up a mission in Kano, the Holy See announced. The mission would "intensify the evangelical work of the church in areas still without structure"

SEN, the
champion, has
been a
Neopolitan
under rival
control. His
discovery
leads the way
to Paris, where
he made the
opening
and last Congress
American People's
party in
setting the new
order which will
control domestic
affairs. The
country's economy
has prospered
and he said he
hopes to have a
personality with
influence to many
electorates to vote
for him. He proposed
that the
should support
the
the persons
in a future
Convention, adding
that he
the best solution
to the
"at risk".

His male chauvinist approach to women and marriage may outrage feminists, but husbands having problems getting along with just

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THE TIMES FRIDAY OCTOBER 18 1991

Cambodian reform

Rival asks Sihanouk to accept presidency

By DAVID WATTS IN LONDON AND JAMES PRINGLE ON THE THAI-CAMBODIAN BORDER

HUN SEN, the Cambodian prime minister, has invited Prit Norodom Sihanouk, his former rival, to become president. His dramatic gesture clears the way for next week's Paris peace conference.

He made the announcement at the opening of the sixth congress of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary party in Phnom Penh, setting the tone for a gathering which will shed communist dogma and officially approve the increasingly free-market character of the country's economy. Straying from his prepared text, Mr Hun Sen said he thought it was necessary to have a Cambodian personality with enough influence to sway the country's electorate to vote for the party. He proposed that the party should support the prince, the president of Cambodia, in a future Cambodian election, adding that this was the best solution to steer Cambodia away from new political crisis.

As Hun Sen spoke, Heng

Samrin, the current president and party leader, was said to look tired and dejected. The two men had reportedly had an argument the previous night about his removal from the presidency.

The party is to bring in a series of reforms during its two-day congress, and to rename itself the Cambodian People's party. Its new manifesto declares: "All Cambodian citizens have the right to the freedom of religious beliefs, assembly, publication and defence in courts." It says Cambodians have the right to set up trade unions. Buddhism is supported as the state religion and religious minorities are granted rights.

On economic policy, the opening up of the financial market, banking and insurance sectors will be encouraged. A tax policy will be adopted "to promote economic and social development". The draft promises government help in developing the infrastructure of transport and communications.

Cambodia's new foreign policy includes a pledge "not to enter into any military alliance or pact that is against the permanent neutrality of Cambodia". In a reference to the Khmer Rouge, under whose rule a million Cambodians probably died, the party firmly opposed the recurrence of the "holocaust".

A senior Khmer Rouge official said yesterday that Cambodian refugees in Thailand should only go back to Cambodia voluntarily. Recent reports have claimed that more than 1,000 people have been returned to Cambodia by the Khmer Rouge by deception in order to build up their electoral support. The official hinted that a Khmer Rouge hardliner known as Nykon, who has threatened to force thousands of refugees back into Cambodia, was a navier who had embarrassed senior officials just days before the signing of peace accords. It was not clear whether he had acted alone or at the behest of others.



Death in Mexico: Chis-Chis, London Zoo's giant panda, who has died, aged 19, while on breeding loan in Mexico City. He died of peritonitis caused by a perforated ulcer.

Sikhs blamed for bomb deaths

From COOMI KAPOOR IN DELHI

MORE than 40 people were killed and 100 injured in two separate bomb blasts in the Himalayan foothills of Terai, a region of Uttar Pradesh state in northern India. The bombs are thought to be the work of Sikh extremists seeking revenge for the controversial killing of ten Sikh youths in July, but no group has claimed responsibility.

This is the first serious incident of terrorism in the tranquil Himalayan foothills, far from the troubled border state of Punjab. The bombs are thought to have been exploded as a retaliatory action for the gunning down of ten youths by the Uttar Pradesh police in Pilibhit district. The Uttar Pradesh police say the Sikhs were terrorists killed in a shoot-out with the police, but many local people and the national press say the dead were pilgrims who had been ordered off a bus and then shot in cold blood.

The death toll in Wednesday night's bomb blast is expected to rise since many of the injured are in critical condition. Several of those killed died in a stampede after the first explosion, which was reportedly set off by remote control. A large crowd was watching a performance of scenes from a holy Hindu text telling the story of Lord Rama at the time. The scenes are enacted nightly during the festival season of Dusshera. The second bomb went off 20 minutes later at the hospital in Rudrapur to which the injured were being taken.

The blasts have shaken the tranquil hill district of Nainital, and all shops and establishments in the foothill towns of Haldwani and Rudrapur were closed in protest yesterday. A large number of Sikh farmers have migrated to the region during the past two decades and have managed, by dint of hard work, to transform rocky terrain into fertile fields.

Violence by Sikh extremists fighting to establish a separate homeland of Khalistan by making the northwest Indian state of Punjab secede has increased in recent months. More than 3,000 people have died this year in terrorist-related incidents in Punjab, a far higher toll than last year. Liviu Radu, Romania's acting ambassador to India, was kidnapped in Delhi last week by extremists demanding freedom for some jailed comrades. Despite a house-to-house search in Delhi, police hunting for him seem to have made little progress.

Police in Delhi said on Wednesday that they had shot a terrorist in the capital's central plaza of Connaught Place in full view of a large crowd.

Murder claims denied

Manila — Raul Manglapus, the foreign secretary of the Philippines, has described as malicious and false charges aired on the American ABC television network that he had hired a mercenary to kill military rebel leaders and enemies of President Aquino (Abby Tan writes).

Mr Manglapus said in a prepared statement that he would not dignify the "malicious charge" of Jack Terrel, a mercenary who claimed he was paid \$30,000 (£17,500) in July 1990 to kill leaders of the Reform Armed Forces Movement, the army rebel group, and their civilian supporters. Mr Manglapus said that, if unanswered, however, the charges might sabotage continuing talks with fugitive rebels.

Mr Manglapus said that, if unanswered, however, the charges might sabotage continuing talks with fugitive rebels. "The charge is categorically false," he said. "I have not plotted to kill anyone. I have not paid money to anyone to undertake murder on my behalf."

Suicide threat

Hong Kong — Leaders at Hong Kong's largest camp for Vietnamese boat people, holding 24,000 people, claim they will commit suicide "in droves" rather than be forcibly repatriated. "We have a slogan: 'There will be blood and flowers instead of blood and tears,'" one said. The leaders said the people would not agree to return to Vietnam while the Communists were in power. (Reuters)

Peking visitor

Peking — Zou Jiahua, a Chinese deputy prime minister since April, is due in Britain on Wednesday. He will be the highest-ranking Chinese visitor since the 1989 shooting of pro-democracy demonstrators in Peking. The choice of Mr Zou is thought to be a compromise: he is a rising star in Peking politics who is aligned with the hardliners but his name does not evoke images of the army suppression.

Overdose death

Bangkok — Yavuz Yavuz, aged 31, the general manager of Turkey's Denizbank, died of a drug overdose while attending the World Bank-International Monetary Fund conference here. Major-General Tassana Suwanjutha, director-general of Thailand's Institute of Forensic Medicine, said. A post-mortem examination had revealed a lethal dose of heroin.

Poor loser

Jakarta — A bull elephant charged a crowd of 1,000 people in northern Indonesia when its mate lost a tug-of-war, the *Suara Karya* said. The newspaper said the male, escaped from its trainers in the city of Banda Aceh and ran amok when it heard the female elephant's cries after it was beaten by a team of 40 local officials. (Reuters)

TOKYO NOTEBOOK by Joanna Pitman

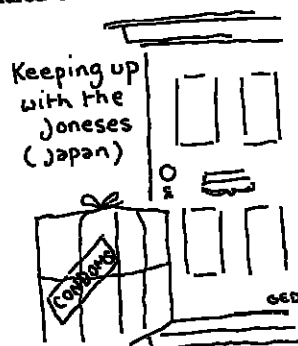
Skin ladies under threat from the Pill

Japan's door-to-door saleswomen come in two forms. Some rap smartly on the door and with a click of the heels and an FBI-style flash of their Nomura Securities business cards, they have one spruce shoulder pad over the threshold and are half-way to hosting an equity investment coffee morning for languid, but loaded, housewives. The other type wears diamond-studded stilettos, a slinky cocktail dress and make-up as thick as a Kabuki actor. She warbles sweet greetings on the doorstep, then insinuates a limb in a 15-denier stocking round the door. In no time she has sold a gross of condoms.

Both species are in danger. The Nomura sales ladies have been ordered off the streets by the omnipotent finance ministry, which wants to punish Nomura for its recent financial mischief. They will not be back for six weeks.

Japan's itinerant purveyors of condoms, however, known in some circles as "skin ladies", face a more serious threat. At the beginning of next year the welfare ministry will declare open season in Japan for sales of the contraceptive pill.

Oral contraceptives have been banned in Japan, except in some medical circumstances, because, the ministry says, they have unpleasant side-effects. "Japanese doctors have created a lucrative abortion industry for themselves, and they have opposed the introduction of the pill," said Yuriko Ashino, executive secretary of the Japanese family planning association.



the doctors to persuade them to accept the pill. For the skin ladies, however, there is to be no such pay-off.

Kieko Kimura is the leading skin lady for My Show, a small condom-distributing company. She is doing uncommonly good business this week but fears that the pill will end her career. For now, young housewives are her ideal target because "they are usually so embarrassed that they will do anything to get rid of me", she said with a saucy smile. She is so successful, indeed, that she recently goaded the faithful wife of a company president into buying two gross of condoms although her husband works 200 miles away, and returns only once a month.

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Print which limits the subject's sexuality: Barlach's *Lilith*

A cut above the grotesque

John Russell Taylor revels in the unclassifiable art of Ernst Barlach, on display at the Goethe Institute

Ernst Barlach is not as well known in Britain as he should be. Partly that is because he fell between stools. He was not quite a full-blown Expressionist, nor did he share the unsparingly realistic approach of the Neue Sachlichkeit. He sometimes dealt with the same sort of contemporary social subject-matter as Grosz or Dix, but lacked their satirical verve.

Yet he was by no means an ingrained traditionalist, despite his interest in the folk-roots of art. In his sturdy independence of fads and fashions, he can really be compared only with the near-contemporary printmaker Käthe Kollwitz. But comparison does not imply similarity. Even his inclusion, a year before his death, in the Nazis' notorious "Degenerate Art" show made him no less of an essential loner.

All the same, he occupies a unique place in 20th century art for the strength of his vision and the extraordinary power of his line. That is what makes the Goethe Institute's

current show, Ernst Barlach: Graphic Works, so valuable. The characteristic Barlach line appears almost as much in his sculpture as in his prints.

As is demonstrated by the show's single bronze, *Monks Reading III*, Barlach had a phenomenal skill in devising a sculptural shape which would present a dramatic outline from all angles. It almost seems as if a series of prints could emerge if an artist slowly circled the sculpture and just drew what he saw.

There are, indeed, often close connections between prints and sculptures. And, to reverse the comparison, there are few makers of woodcuts who leave the spectator more vividly conscious that the basis of the process is actually sculpting in wood.

The prints included in this show mostly belong to series—

a way of exploring subjects that Barlach found particularly to his taste. Most powerful is probably the only one which is shown in its entirety, *The Faces of God* (1920-21), which consists of just seven images. Here the woodcut medium is used with particular felicity to evoke a terrible God, such as Blake had earlier conceived him.

By comparison, the series of woodcuts that Barlach published in 1923 to accompany Goethe's *Walpurgisnacht* show both his strengths and his limitations: he is completely at home with the horrors and grotesqueries, but seems at a loss when it comes to defining the sexuality of Lilith or the pure beauty of Gretchen. The less corporeal ecstasies of Schiller's *An die Friede* are more

suited to his elevated vision: he can cope better with joy than with jollity.

The lithographs in the show are in curious contrast to the woodcuts, partly because they are mostly earlier. The first major series, *Die tote Dag*, was published in 1912, when Barlach was already 42 but still finding his way. Ten out of the 27 in the portfolio are included, and they have their own kind of power. Well they might, given the grim chapters of misfortunes they chronicle. But there is also something about the sheer labour of carving wood which brings Barlach's vision into sharp focus; without it, he seems strong in the basic idea but woolly in the expression.

Now that the Goethe Institute has provided this foretaste, some London museum should go further, and stage the show of Barlach's sculpture that would set the British art-world by its ears.

Ernst Barlach: Graphic Works. Goethe Institute, 30 Princes Gate, SW7 (071-581 3344), until Nov 15.

Lithograph chronicling human misfortune: *Love & Sorrow*

Rimbaud recalled

FRENCH poetry has found an unlikely champion on this side of *la Manche*. Next month the Plymouth Arts Centre pulls out all the stops to mark the centenary of the death of Arthur Rimbaud. It is mounting a three-day festival (November 14-16) that includes a performance of *Un coeur sous une soutane*, the stage comedy written by the poet when he was 16, a talk by Margaret Drabble, and poetry readings and seminars. Plymouth is also hosting a travelling exhibition put together by the Musée Rimbaud, and a show of paintings done by Rimbaud-inspired artists.

Bee's knees

A PAINTING called *The Beekeeper's Son* has won

Andrzej Jackowski the £20,000 first prize in the seventeenth John Moores Liverpool Exhibition, which opened at the Walker Art Gallery yesterday. The landscape will take prime position in the show which runs until January 19, and then be hung permanently in the gallery alongside previous winners by David Hockney and others.

Last chance...

NAKAMURA Kankuro V, Bando Tamasaburo V: the very names of the chief actors emphasise the ancestry of the Kabuki art which they proceed to prove subtle and fascinating. There is a mythic world of dancing butterflies and clattering monsters. *The Grand Kabuki*, which is an excellent introduction to the genre's mysteries, ends its run at the Lyttelton theatre (071-928 2252) on Saturday.

Steely vessels in a marble sea

Sculpture to admire, feel, explore: Richard Cork on two shows of Sir Anthony Caro

Poised and flowing: Caro's *Night Movements*, softened by orange staining and luxuriant boughs of green steel

Although the colossal steel tower at the heart of Sir Anthony Caro's Tate Gallery show invites us to go in and explore, the welcome is accompanied by a disconcerting challenge. Where should we make our entrance? Several flights of stairs swoop up from the ground, each offering access to the convoluted sequence of spaces above. The choice is perplexing, and after we have made our decision the bewilderment intensifies.

With one exception, the stairs peter out in odd, unaccountable platforms and chambers. Expectations are continually flouted by a structure which denies rational priorities. If the tower represents sculpture aspiring to the condition of architecture, then this is the most bloody-minded building imaginable.

Time and again, walls depart from convention and curve out perversely into space, asserting their own right to escape from a functional role. Floors are interrupted by sudden eruptions of sheet steel, thrusting upwards at vertiginous angles. Steps jut out in arbitrary clusters, threatening to wrong-foot the unwary. And the central stairwell has been subjected to a strange squeezing: even slim visitors must contort their bodies in order to pass through its funnel-like space.

Occasionally, respite is provided from the giddy, tantalising assault-course Caro has devised. A table sits on a landing, and we approach with thoughts of resting there. But no seats are provided, and the space above the table is half-blocked by a protruding slab. As for the central room on the ground floor, where an undulating, palette-shaped bench does provide generous sitting-space, any reassuring prospect of shelter is soon dispelled. For the chamber is positioned directly beneath an open stairwell, and a dizzying perspective of steps spiral like demented vertebrae above us.

When Caro started to push his art in an architectural direction at the beginning of the 1960s, he produced a curving structure called the *Child's Tower Room*. As its name suggests, the work was meant to be savoured on the level of a game. Children relished clambering on it and even if the new tower is larger and more complex, the emphasis on playfulness persists.

Confronted by the sequence of low-ceilinged spaces at the base of the structure, I found myself crawling through them without much hesitation. For the entire work stimulates an investigative urge, generating energy within the visitor as the exploration proceeds.

Although the tower often threatens to ensnare us, and takes a perverse pleasure in opening up avenues only to terminate them with abrupt cut-de-sacs, the confusions are not aggressively manipulated. Rather do they promote vigilance, and a keener awareness of our bodies' relationship with their surroundings.

In certain respects, the tower seems reminiscent of a ship. The inner rooms resemble cabins, porches are bored through the outer walls, and look-out decks supply strategic views. Caro, who served as a sub-lieutenant in the Fleet Air Arm, has been preoccupied with maritime references for some years, and relishes incorporating dockyard scrap in his work.

All the same, these nautical

associations should not be exaggerated. The tower's links with architecture remain strong, recalling the cork-screw gyrations of Tatlin's model for a *Monument to the Third International*. When compared with Tatlin's unrealised masterpiece, however, Caro's perversity becomes far more pronounced.

At times, the quirkiness of Gaudi, seems to be Caro's guiding influence. The crazy misshapen archways are surely infected with the sublime intoxication of Barcelona's greatest architect, and Caro may also have been wandering in his imagination through *Merzbau*, the Hanover house which Schwitters transformed into a highly charged warren of spaces, before allied bombs flattened it.

Whenever the tower is filled with visitors, though, it becomes animated by the interplay between "sculptural" form and their bending, probing limbs. In a real sense, the work cannot fulfil its potential

without this all-important human presence, and a similar tension informs two of the other exhibits. Both were inspired by a visit to Olympia, where the carvings executed for the Temple of Zeus are preserved, fragmented yet powerful. Although divorced from the centaurs and deities are still controlled by the shape of the pediments which once contained them.

Caro aims at a similar balance of forces in *After Olympia*, where a profusion of furled, billowing, erect and battered components are governed by a triangular format in a 77-foot frieze of rusted and varnished steel. At first glance, the entire piece resembles a destroyer becalmed in dry-dock after a vigorous enemy engagement. Gradually, however, the naval metaphor gives way to a more corporeal alternative. Without aping the Temple of Zeus literally, *After Olympia*'s elements have the interpenetrating restlessness

which runs through the temple's west pediment.

Caro is allowing the human figure to play a more prominent part in his recent sculpture, even if he retains the right to deploy a high degree of abstraction as well. The two sides come together in *Xanadu*, where girder-like uprights in dark steel contrast with more rounded, pale forms indebted to the female figures Caro admires in Matisse's

1916 painting, *Bathers by a River*.

Matisse's rigorous composition is enlivened by an outburst of burgeoning river-side leaves, and organic growth also explodes at intervals in Caro's tower, where one platform sprouts a tangle of plant-like forms.

Although its starting-point was, apparently, Courbet's tree paintings, *Night Movements* refuses to be pinned

down to a single meaning. Walking between the work's four parts is certain akin to moving through a heavily foliated wood. Luxuriant ears of stained green steel well out to brush your swaying forms offer protection.

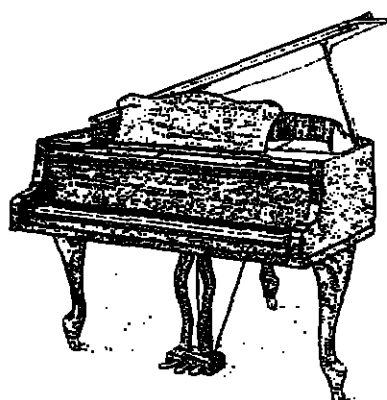
The staining is applied quite freely, allowing the rust to remain visible as orange splashes in many places. They give the surfaces a sensuousness which the even-painted tower lacks. Indeed, the musical flow and poised *Night Movements* comes as a relief after the sombre, sometimes oppressive ruminations of the more bulky exhibits.

This spring's work has a spyness which also animates the tumbling darting and cascading table-top sculptures displayed in Caro's current show at Annely Juda Fine Art. Here he is at his most balletic, using the table-top platforms to tumble and dangle over the edges with irrepressible zest.

At 67, he shows no sign of slowing up or complacently reiterating a proven formula. Caro is no more capable of stagnation than is his most flamboyant work. Risk-taking fires him still, and is continuing ability to extend the boundaries of sculpture suggests that his development will be peppered with further surprises in the year ahead.

● Sculpture towards Architecture is at the Tate, Millbank, SW1 (071-921 1313) Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2-5.30pm until Jan 26. Annely Juda Fine Art, 23 Dering Street, W1 7T, 629 7578, until Nov 30.

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British

A poor little rich girl from Streatham holds audience in the Ritz to tell Kate Muir some of the unexpected hardships of the catwalk

Life can be tough on only £10,000 a day



Too rich to smile? But Naomi Campbell says that she is paid much less than the top white models

The Ritz is filled with the gentle rumble of Chanel carrier bags, and the clash of perfumes. It is an ideal place to make an entrance, what with the inlaid marble, proper red carpet, revolving doors and lines of supplicant waiting bellboys.

So when Naomi Campbell — “£10,000-a-day supermodel” in tabloids — explodes from the Paris night, a mere hour-and-a-half late, there is suitable staring and pointing.

The lobbyful of the filthy rich in neat little suits is not quite sure how to take about 8ft of black panther with long orange hair. Some look agast. Others, in the know, realise it is *une supermodel*, here for the Spring-Summer ready-to-wear designer shows. They also know it is *une scandale*, what those girls are paid.

Ms Campbell, all arms and leggings, is now flitting between the hotel's three private phoneboxes, leaving callers hanging on. A small queue builds up, too terrified to interfere. The bellboy is transfixed.

At last, the woman who wanted to scotch the rumours that supermodels were overpaid and behaved like royalty is ready to talk. “I’m starving. I want chips,” she says. A waiter crosses the bar to her seat by the live harpist. “You got French fries?” she says. He looks puzzled. “Pommes fries?” The harpist plucks louder. The waiter will only serve drinks. She orders a tomato juice and a strawberry bellini.

This week has been a bad one for Ms Campbell and her kind, her kind being Linda Evangelista, Christy Turlington, Cindy Crawford, Tatjana Patitz and Claudia Schiffer. The world's most expensive models have been horribly lambasted for earning sums like £11,700 for one show (Ms Evangelista for Lanvin), and for acting up like Hollywood-style goddesses. Ms Campbell is the only British model in the big league, and the only black one.

Although constantly included in the same breath of abuse, she claims to make less than the rest. “First of all, I don’t earn a million a year,” she says sliding out of an Azzedine Alaïa leather jacket to

reveal flesh, or at least something so loosely crocheted it was debatable if it could be defined as a garment.

“And I don’t like the word supermodel. I’m not as marketable as the other top models because I’m black.” So although she earns much the same on the catwalk, she misses out on the £2m contracts with cosmetics companies which the top white models add to their wage packets. “You can’t sell white cosmetics on black skin, and there aren’t any big companies out there who cater for ethnic women.”

Her poverty, as such, is not enough to make you weep into your bellini, but Ms Campbell does have a point. She says she is offered “nowhere near” the same amount of money as the big blonde Americans and Germans for the same jobs, and that their faces can appear again and again on the front of international *Vogue* and *Elle*.

She is used much less, as publishers like token equality, but secretly fear black cover girls reduce impulse buys. She claims to be the first and only black face to appear so far on the front of French *Vogue*. “I’ve got used to it. There are times when I just don’t fit in. When I’m not part of things.”

She makes a similar point about complaints in various newspapers that she always looks sulky, so rich she does not have to smile. “That’s just the way my face is. That’s what my lips are like.”

She can sound sulky, though, especially when called in her £300-a-night room early in the morning, early in this case being 11am. She sounds precisely like a higher pitched Tom Waits, the singer well known for his gravelly voice. Not surprising, then, that Ms Campbell is to launch her singing career soon, and is working on an album. She is also mindful of the shelf-life of beauty.

She describes her music as “rockish and raw”, whatever that means. “And the lyrics are not too old for me I mean I’m only 21, and I don’t want to talk about love, love, love, because I don’t really know much about it yet.” She veers between sweet innocence, and attempted worldliness, as does her accent. Her original Streatham, “sari” London, is for the more naive sentences, but slips into light American when poise is required. She has just finished studying with a voice coach in case Hollywood calls.

What this meeting comes closest to, the realisation suddenly comes, is talking to Kylie Minogue on acid. All through the voice changes, wriggling and sudden gorgeous stares, she is eating peanuts, cashew nuts, raisins, homemade crisps and mini fruit kebabs and biscuits with pink sludge. It is gastronomically and psychologically disturbing.

The physical aspect is another worry. If this is the perfect modern body, it is clearly hip to be hipless. Curves are sparse on the 1990s icon, just as they were on the 1960s one, Twiggy. Strange that those two decades should produce models who made the leap from clotheshorse to thoroughbred, but the ones in between should not.

Ms Campbell puts it down to the hard work and professionalism of the modern girl, although she hastens to say she is there to show the clothes, not herself. Somehow, though, certain models have leapt the barrier of anonymity and have become catwalk personalities, so much so that shows lacking their names get less attention.

“I really began to notice it a year ago when I’d go out for a meal with someone and it would be reported in the papers the next day, even though nothing happened.” Young girls started queuing for her autograph. “I don’t

mind. I was a groupie myself a few years ago. We used to wait outside Boy George’s house all day. Now I know him. He’s lovely. I think I’ll send him some of my songs.”

Her Jamaican mother decided early on that the young Naomi was destined for stardom and not the checkout at a Streatham supermarket. Although a single parent, she sent her daughter to the Italia Conti stage school to learn dancing, a skill which makes the ridiculous movements now expected on the catwalk a little easier.

Although some models do up to 21 shows in four days, Ms Campbell is performing in only ten, for undisclosed amounts, because if she did them all she would “fall down and die”. Favoured designers, such as Ruffalo Ozbek and Azzedine Alaïa, get special treatment from the supermodel clique. “Of course we all do Alaïa for nothing and he gives us clothes. That’s a tradition.” The stuffer designers whose clothes are less acceptable as barter have to pay in the traditional way — through the nose.

Still, it is a relief to know that there is work involved, hours of late-night fittings and rehearsals. The Japanese, Ms Campbell confides, are particularly draconian. Yesterday Comme des Garçons collected all the models from their hotels at 5.30am in time for two rehearsals before a 10 o’clock show. “They’re very organised. They like to get it just right.”

Then there are the endless lonely nights in hotels, with only other supermodels to talk to, away from her house in Streatham and apartment in New York. Fortunately for the poor little rich girl, she has company tonight. “Oscarrrr!” she squeals running across the lobby. “Naomiiii,” says a man in his fifties in a good French checked jacket, kissing her. “This is Oscar de la Renta,” she says. “I’m doing his show.” She tells Mr de la Renta about putting in a good word for overpriced models. “She’s worth every penny,” Mr de la Renta says, sliding an arm around her back.

Sexual harassment: who cares?

Laurie Taylor on why men of a certain age do

While the rest of the country was fiercely arguing the toss, my 18 and 19-year-old first year sociology students at York were finding it difficult to understand what made it all so controversial. For a start, it was quite obvious to most of them that Anita Hill was in the right. One or two agreed that it was just possible she had been lying or exaggerating but after all, they insisted, if you took into account the millions of women all over the world who were subject to sexual harassment then the likelihood that the ones who came forward to testify to its existence were telling the truth was pretty high. Professor Hill had statistical probability on her side.

They certainly did not agree with my gentle suggestion that bringing the law into this area might make us all so self-conscious that normal conversation between men and women would have to be temporarily suspended or reduced to formal banalities.

Why on earth was it difficult to avoid anything sexual in conversation? They could not imagine speaking to a woman in the way in which it was alleged Clarence Thomas had. Everyone avoided the one or two male students who behaved like that. The more I went on about the danger of subjective judgments, the possibility that women who complained about sexual harassment were in danger of perpetrating the idea of themselves as victims — wasn’t it better to learn how to fight back than to rush to law? — the more neanderthal I felt. They began to look at me with a mixture of incomprehension and pity usually reserved for references to the historical importance of trade unions.

I doubt if it is easy for any man over about 30 to meet the straightforward gaze of those who are so genuinely and innocently appalled by any form of

sexual harassment. All through the week you could hear middle-aged men, who had found the spotlight turned on their everyday behaviour by the Senate hearing, busily covering their tracks, telling little self-serving anecdotes about the time — several years ago, of course — when they had — just the once, you understand — discussed dirty films or their sexual fantasies to this or that woman in the office. And lo and behold it turned out she had not minded one bit.

But it is a mark of how closely we were attending that Senate debate that many men seem to have realised that from this week on such self-justifications are in danger of sounding hollow. Perhaps that is why so many decided that the only way off the hook was to declare that Professor Hill was a liar.

Perhaps what every man over 30 who has sat shily through the week’s proceedings now needs is a way of dealing with accumulated guilt. A sexual harassment amnesty. The equivalent of one of those police skips for illegally owned guns where they could own up to the battery of double entendres, crude jokes, little touches, one-sided sexual conversations, and insinuations which they have laid on women over most of their working lives.

“I’ll hardly dare to breathe in front of women after all this,” said a colleague last week. Well, as I’m sure my students would insist, perhaps a little breathlessness is simply the present cost of those years of pretence and hypocrisy. And if the publicity from this case really has had such a pronounced effect it might even make it less necessary to introduce laws on sexual harassment or to invoke them regularly. How much better if our behaviour towards others in public places were regulated as it mostly is, not by laws, but by good manners.

Libby Purves on why working women do not

There was a nice exchange in a London office this week, over the Clarence Thomas affair. A man, portentious and middle-aged, said earnestly to a female subordinate: “I take this sexual harassment issue very seriously indeed.” Strangely annoyed, she replied: “Do you, George? Personally, I think it’s hilarious.” And removed herself rapidly, to get some actual work done.

Many working women are getting irritated by the whole subject. Both sexes have started, mesmerised, at the emotional lynching in Washington, and the media have reacted by alternating harrowing case histories with articles by robust women urging their sisters to take the Miss Piggy line against sleazy colleagues and biff them (verbally, at least) in the eye. But older men seem unable to leave the subject, taking self-flagellating delight in discussing precisely what is sexual harassment. Is it compliments? Doon-opening? Calling grown women “girls”? Having settled the matter to their satisfaction, they announce that they “take it all very seriously”, perhaps put out a guideline or two and relax.

And they are missing the point. Real sexual bullying happens between superiors and subordinates: the superior being a man, the subordinate a woman: a typist, a junior, a canteen worker. It is not the sexual advance which is offensive — outside the office, she could undoubtedly deal with it Miss Piggy fashion. What grates, and restrains, and causes tears of frustration is the exercise of power: the unspoken assurance in the minds of both parties that he will always be the boss and she the minion.

Women still have to be better, bolder, tougher than men in order to reach the same level. Even outside the years of family responsibilities, not

enough of them do. The average woman’s pay is half the average man’s. The “glass ceiling” is a reality. Most any group of workers and the top few are men, with a layer of talented women and younger men below. It is true in journalism, publishing, law, banking, medicine, truly so in manufacturing or politics.

The law, and time, and demographics are on the women’s side. But perhaps because they know this, the men in their fifties are finding the going hard. Quite simply, they don’t know what to do about these uppity young flappers climbing the ladder behind them. These men grew up in a different world. Their wives never worked, at least not competitively. At the office there are creatures who seem biologically wife-like, yet who argue and wrangle and don’t know when to give in gracefully.

Therefore such men do not quite know what to do. And the panacea for that is knowing what not to do. High-profile harassment cases are a godsend: they give this puzzled generation a whole set of things to avoid. They enable an old-fashioned, courteous man who would never dream of pinching a woman’s bottom to feel snug about not doing so. And a bit protective, too, of the little ladies (oops). Some even say: “I’m a feminist.”

But women want something more basic and far less titillating: to be valued for plain work, and thought of as equally serious promotion prospects as men of similar talent. They want to get clear of the dead-end “women’s” jobs, to dispel the miasma of awkward civility and have their voice heard. And when all this happens, who knows? They might even overlook the odd drunken pass: forgiving men for their nature because at last, men have managed to forgive women for coming to work in the first place.

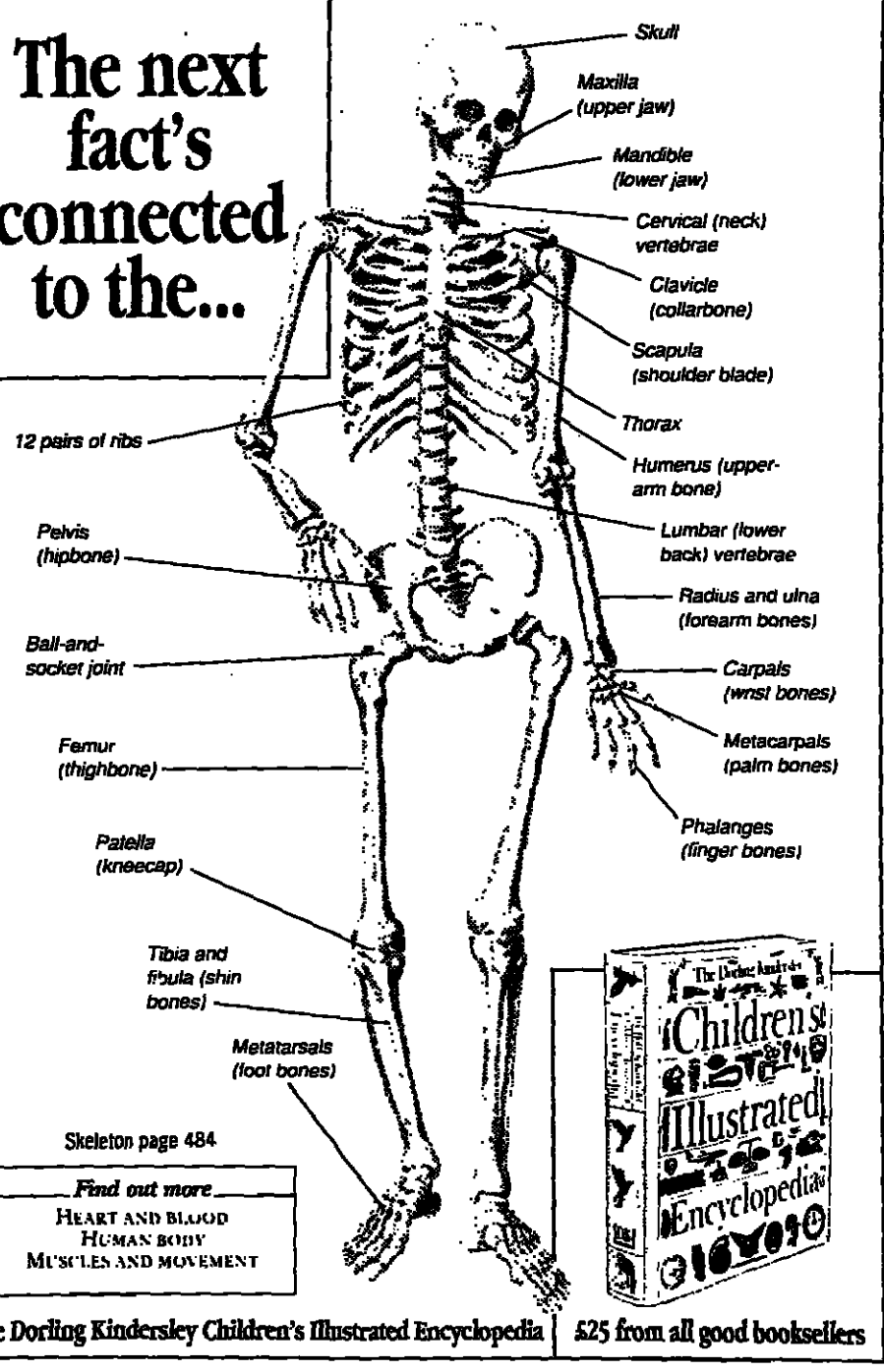


Laurie Taylor



Libby Purves

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Hansard: the great unread

John Grigg urges MPs to examine their record

Politicians are always said to be mad about publicity, and so in some ways they are. But in one respect, British politicians neglect publicity woefully. Despite the decline of parliamentary reporting in newspapers, they fail to make any serious effort to promote the recording of Parliament in print.

There was a time when Commons debates were reported at length in the broadsheets, but no longer. Nowadays there is space only for front-bench speeches and a few paragraphs from a few back-benchers. Most MPs are lucky if their words are adequately reported even in their constituents' local papers. In the national press they are given at most only a few lines.

This treatment does no justice to the quality of debate in the Commons, which is much higher than most people realise. Regrettably, too, is the similar neglect of proceedings in the Lords. Though debates there are, by and large, less lively than in the Commons, on certain issues the Lords' reservoir of expertise comes into its own.

Parliament is, of course, recorded verbatim in Hansard. But how many citizens of our parliamentary democracy read the Lords' and Commons' Hansards? The figures are pathetic and pitiful. Of the daily Commons' Hansard, on average about 4,000 copies are printed; of the daily Lords' Hansard, about 2,500.

The figures for the weekly editions of Hansard are even worse. The Commons' weekly prints 1,400; the Lords' 700. Since most of these copies, daily or weekly, go to politicians themselves, or to specialist institutions, the sale to the general public is infinitesimal.

On a few big occasions, the print run may be increased. The peak attained in recent times was for the day of Sir Geoffrey Howe's resignation speech in the Commons, when Hansard printed 4,800 copies. But this can hardly be regarded as mass circulation.

Price alone would be enough to account for Hansard's exiguous sale. The Commons' daily costs £6, its weekly £18; the Lords' daily costs £4, its weekly £8.50. These prices are guaranteed to kill the market. If parliament wants its proceedings to be widely read and studied, it must make the price of Hansard attractive.

Thought should also be given to improving the product, and then making sure that everybody knows about it. The weekly Hansards offer the best opportunity for development. Why should they not be combined in a single publication, including not only the record of Commons' and Lords' proceedings for each week, but also coverage of the work of select committees, which is often fascinating as well as important? At present the work of select committees is recorded under three separate titles: the verbatim evidence for each sitting, the reports of each committee, and the minutes of proceedings (a purely formal document). Not surprisingly, the print for these records is, as a rule, numbered in hundreds.

Hansard is printed and published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, which is also, in practice, responsible for nearly all the distribution and sale. Though HMSO is free to deal with commercial outlets, such dealings will naturally remain minimal so long as Hansard is produced and priced as it is now.

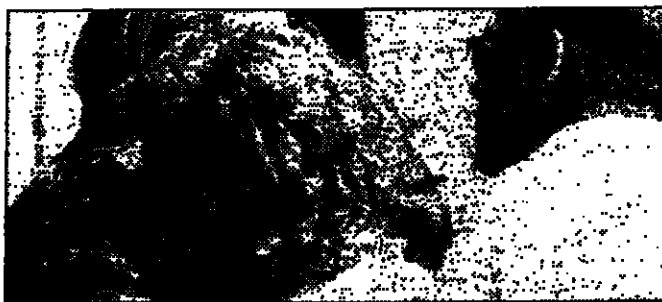
The need is for a professionally edited weekly Hansard, incorporating the weekly reports of both Houses and extracts from the work of select committees (evidence and reports). To these might be added a few articles and parliamentary profiles. The publication should be illustrated and have a bright cover.

Having evolved a product for which there could be genuine public demand, Parliament should ensure that it is offered at a price people might be willing to pay. A heavily subsidised weekly Hansard — and a subsidised daily too, for that matter — would be an excellent investment in democracy.

Parliament should also spend money on advertising the more accessible Hansards, particularly the new-look weekly. And HMSO should be encouraged to push the sale through every conceivable commercial outlet. Publicity should in any case be greatly assisted by the fact that Parliament is now televised (though as yet to a very limited degree). When a literary classic is dramatised for television, people rush in their thousands to buy the book. MPs should not be satisfied until people are often to be seen reading Hansard on buses and trains.

Charles Bremner, in New York, says Russia and the US are aping the worst of each other's societies

America's bloody example



Grief: a Texan woman is comforted after the shooting

A New Yorker was wounded in a shoot-out in a crowded restaurant on Sunday. That news might seem unexceptional in a week that saw 22 people murdered in a Texas cafeteria, but the restaurant is in Moscow. The American was caught in the crossfire of a gun and grenade fight that ended with the death of another man. Five other people were shot dead that night in the Russian capital. Such violence is one aspect of a striking symmetry between America and the former Soviet Union.

As it rushes towards capitalism and democracy, Russia is adopting American habits, both good and bad. That might be expected, but oddly, America is reciprocating, unconsciously taking on some old Soviet ways. Rampages by crazed lone gunmen, an all-too-familiar horror of modern American life, still lie outside the Russian experience. But the ingredients of lawlessness and alienation that breed the chaos now afflicting the Eurasian former superpower are the same.

The statistics have yet to reach American proportions, but the crime-wave now surging from St Petersburg to Vladivostok calls for comparisons with the Wild West, gangland Chicago or the modern drug-

wars of New York and Los Angeles. Firearms, of which there are said to be millions in private possession, are being wielded with an American-style abandon, often to settle squabbles or simply to express frustration.

In the sudden free-for-all brought on by the collapse of communism, Moscow has turned into a sea of racketeering, drug-dealing, gambling, prostitution and money-laundering, dominated by some 10 "Mafia" gangs, as they are always called. Al Capone had only one shortage to exploit — alcohol — but the Moscow gangs are extorting millions from the scarcity of nearly every commodity, from sugar to cars. Many gangs, it is said, operate through joint ventures with foreign concerns.

After decades of treating all profit-making as crime, the police are ill-equipped to distinguish between felonies and the new business spirit. Arkady Murashev, the young democratic politician just appointed as Moscow's chief of police, sees prostitution and drug-taking as acceptable facets of the free market. Such thinking prevails

throughout the new entrepreneurial class, which cannot get enough of everything American, from "business schools" to personal bodyguards, as it scrambles to catch up on 74 years of lost initiative. Pioneers from 19th-century America would recognise the frenetic mercantile spirit that has established some 300 rudimentary "stock exchanges" across the country.

Try explaining to a dinner table of Moscow intellectuals that the free market is not the cure for everything and you will be shouted down. Talk about the cruelties of naked capitalism

and you will be greeted with the scorn that neo-conservatives of the early Reagan years would have shown.

Yet while young Russians are embracing the American virtues of individual liberty and personal responsibility, Americans are moving away from them, preferring to shirk the burden through litigation and the rationale of victimhood.

Lulled by prosperity, Americans are coming to regard elections as meaningless. Most do not bother to vote. Many even tell pollsters that in an age of sound-bites and video-flashes

they believe that they live in a one-party state. This apathy has given rise to the tyranny of the "politically correct", the minorities and interest groups who are using the courts and other institutions to enforce conformity and punish dissidents.

University lecturers are being sacked for showing insufficient zeal for the doctrine that all men, particularly white ones, are oppressors of women, either in deed or thought. Thought police are patrolling campuses, enforcing codes which include such offences as incorrect laughter. Across the country, dissident songs are being banned from the airwaves, the latest being "When I say no, I mean maybe" by the country singer Holly Dunn. (Sexual harassment is now considered as dangerous to American life as communism was once.) The repressions are of course trivial compared to those of communism, but the methods and mentality of self-censorship are familiar to any Russian. Muscovites saw something very familiar in the inquisition of Judge Clarence Thomas. Mos-

cow television explained the judge's ordeal as the equivalent of a party's personnel tribunal from the bad old days. In popular culture too, there are increasing echoes of the old Soviet style. While the Russians have abandoned socialist realism, Hollywood and television are turning out ever more escapist fantasies that always end with the worker-wins-all happy endings once demanded by Stalin. If you want gritty realism or social satire, you have to go to a Russian film like *Little Vera* or *Taxi Blues*.

It may be frivolous to take these comparisons too far — America has immense strengths that justify envy and emulation — but perhaps some morals can be drawn. Americans should wake up to the need to defend the freedoms they take for granted. On the other side, it would help if the Russian enthusiasm for America were tempered with understanding of the social breakdown that sends thousands of teenage gunmen onto the city streets, and prompts middle-class suburbanites to vent their frustrations in mass murder. This was, after all, the only side of America the Russians were ever shown when the Kremlin ran the media. Now the difficulty is making anyone believe it.

The myth of Fortress Europe

Peter Riddell explores the dilemma posed by a new influx of immigrants

Kenneth Baker believes large scale movement of people around the world will become one of the major political issues of the 1990s. It is already an urgent question in much of Europe, though it has hardly surfaced yet in British politics. Ministers worry in private about the implications: immigration control is the fastest growing part of government — and hope that tighter controls will prevent a political backlash. But restrictions are unlikely to prove a lasting solution.

A wave of migrants seeking asylum from the Third World and, most recently, from Eastern Europe has produced political tensions in Germany and France, and contributed to a series of violent attacks on foreigners. Trying to restrict the flow is rather like curbing drug abuse by attempting to prevent imports of heroin and cocaine. A few highly publicised seizures make little difference to the level of drug use. Similarly, tougher immigration procedures are unlikely to deter hungry and unemployed migrants from Africa or the former Soviet Union.

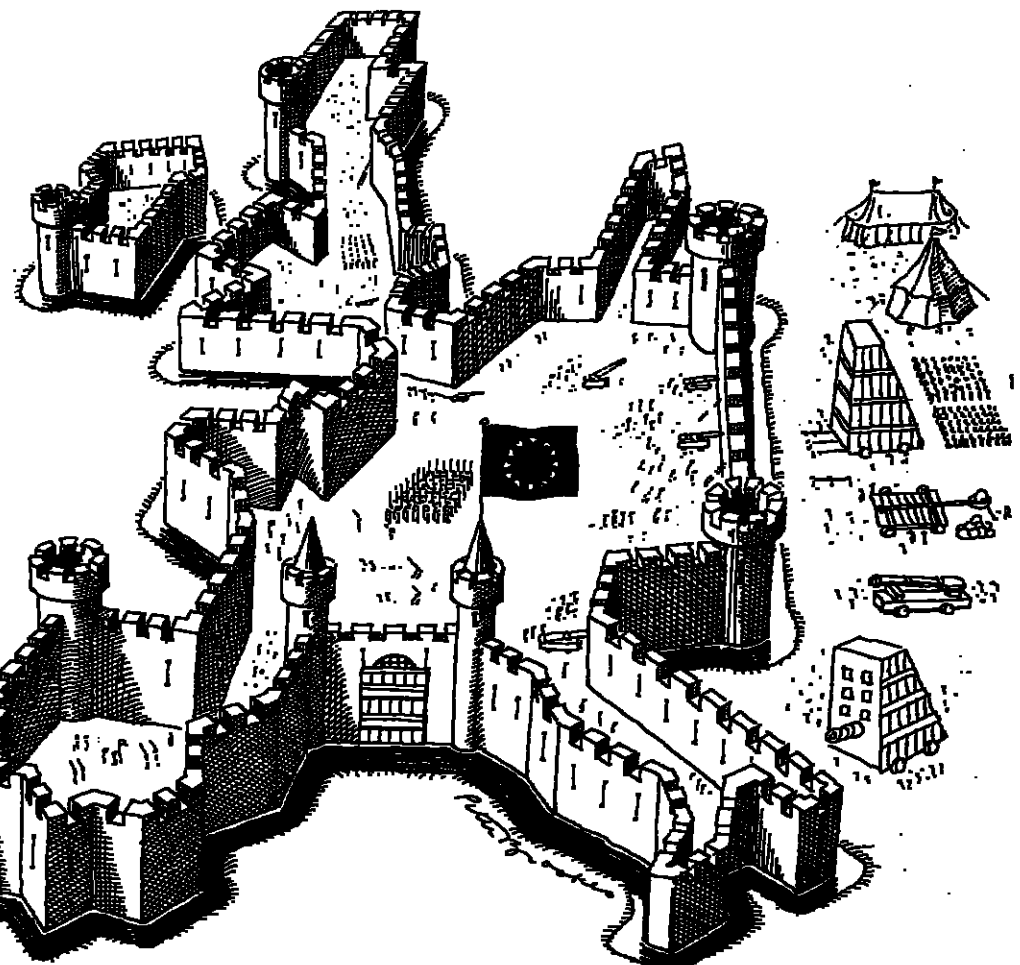
Unless their conditions at home improve, such people will continue to come to Western Europe. References back to the 1951 United Nations convention on refugees are increasingly irrelevant in a world where, as Douglas Hurd dismissively remarked last week, the great majority of asylum seekers are "looking for a more comfortable life, not fleeing persecution".

It is a matter of market forces, assisted by mass air travel. Both Western Europe and America are magnets to the impoverished and persecuted around the world. Immigration into Amer-

A WEEK IN POLITICS

ica is now at its highest level since the mass influx around the turn of the century. In a current lottery, more than 15 million people are chasing 40,000 visas for permanent residence. America, however, has a tradition of welcoming migrants (despite a long period of restriction from the 1920s until the late 1960s). By contrast, Europe has long been more exclusive and more inward-looking. While the numbers trying to enter Europe from outside rose during the 1980s, the Iron Curtain was an effective barrier across the continent. The Berlin Wall was put up in 1961 primarily as a means of stopping mass emigration from East Germany.

The dismantling of barriers within Europe has released a powerful tide. The number of requests for asylum within the European Community has more than doubled in the past two years, to around half a million per annum. New figures are likely to show a big exodus from Yugoslavia, which the Austrian army is vainly trying to stem. Germany is facing the most serious difficulties, absorbing former East Germans and ethnic Germans from Poland and elsewhere, as well as asylum seekers. Widespread incidents of violence have made immigration a dominant issue in German politics. Chancellor Kohl's ability to respond has been circumscribed by the refusal of other parties to back constitutional amendments to



tighten the country's liberal regime. In France, former President Giscard d'Estaing has talked of an "invasion" of immigrants.

The British position is less serious, at present. Primary immigration has been halted, and there are now only around 50,000 legal entrants each year. Continuing difficulties concern enforcement and processing, not numbers. But after the experience of the 1960s, politicians remain sensitive about numbers. The spectre of Enoch Powell is never far away. Hence the government's alarm at the tenfold rise since 1988 in asylum applications. These have now reached 50,000 a year, still

mainly from outside Europe. John Major has taken a firm line: "We must not be wide open to all comers simply because Paris, Rome or London seem more attractive than Bombay or Algiers." The government still bases its policy on the 1951 distinction between economic migrants and political refugees with a well-founded fear of persecution. Legislation this winter will propose speeding up the system for processing applications for refugee status, which now takes 16 months.

Ministers want to avoid fueling tensions, but the issue could be a vote-winner for the Tories. Mr Baker was quick to seize

upon Roy Hattersley's comments at the Labour party conference that the government was making "a squalid appeal to racism" with its asylum legislation. After a suitably prim denial of racism, Mr Baker accused Labour of an "open-gates" policy and said the Tories were "just as concerned about bogus asylum seekers from Eastern Europe as from Africa or Asia". That earned some favourable headlines in the tabloids.

Away from conference rhetoric, the gap between the main parties is much smaller. Labour agrees that there should be no primary immigration and that only legitimate political refugees should be admitted. There are

differences over procedures for assessing applications. Alistair Darling, Labour's spokesman, is concerned that the tighter controls and limits on appeals will be unfair — for instance, by denying legal aid — and he has urged a new, quick tribunal.

Ministers are sceptical about the feasibility of an external barrier round the community. In practice, the boundaries of Germany, Greece, Italy and Spain are porous. Consequently, the Tories want to retain our frontier controls. Labour is supportive, because it opposes the alternative of identity cards.

These proposals are nowhere near a solution. Mr Baker is this weekend visiting the American/Mexican border where he will see how difficult it is to control flows of migrants. But the real lesson from Mexico comes from the negotiations for a free-trade treaty with Washington. President Carlos Salinas argues that America must accept either more Mexican goods or more Mexican people.

Exactly the same applies in Europe. Instead of concentrating on tightening controls, the EC should open its markets to goods from the East. We are certain to have more Polish and Romanian workers in the West; we will have fewer if we admit more Polish and Romanian goods and assist the development of their economies. A second lesson is that new immigrants must be treated equally if we are to avoid creating an immigrant underclass like those in some American and French cities.

British ministers, like their opposite numbers in Bonn and Paris, are responding too negatively to the prospect of mass movement of people in the 1990s. Building dams against outsiders may impress the voters at home in the short term, but it will not be enough to stop the flood.



...and moreover
ALAN COREN

You know how eyes are, as they ungum for morning. "In Colour", trumpeted the first front page they fell on. "The Waluses by Snowdon". Who would not turn immediately to page 9? Poland's first family lolling in the old wizard's chiaroscuro, moustaches purply reflected in a vat of borscht, a bur-lap headscarf mottled by the single lightbulb, a gantry crane or two beyond the window, a big Slav goosehead scratching in the grate.

No such luck, of course. The eye did not have it. As they cleared, page 9 offered them only the Waluses by Snowdon, yet again. A curious portrait this time, mind, fraught with improbability: beneath a fat old English oak, the king-in-waiting stands, incongruously lounge-suited, one hand on the shoulder of his jodhpured consort, the other on the shoulder of his younger son, who, in his turn, clutches the bride of a tiny horse. The next King William sits at his mother's feet, nudged by her knee, and balanced, on her further flank, by an open hamper stocked with grapes and oranges and pears. Nine eyes gaze out at us, eight smiling, but the ninth is louché. Is the pony making some kind of point?

We cannot decode this last any more than we can decode all the rest. We know our future queen to be no hippophile, so why the riding boots? Are they a sly indicator of wifely compliance, designed to frustrate rumour? A

bid to restore Northampton to its feet, or rather ours, since what the Princess wears today, the whole world buys tomorrow? And all that fruit, not merely lurking in the wickerwork, but filling a big tin table, too, and also spilling from Prince William's plate — a vegan health-thing from Daddy, perhaps, but if so, why has none of it been touched? There are no cores, no pips, no stalks; could carnivorous tantrums have been thrown, why can't we have pork pies like other people, why can't we have Spam sarnies? And what of the two large hip-flasks? Can it conceivably be that when the weight of duty grows too great, they all run into the nearest field and quietly get blotto?

Little deserves a loyal subject's sympathy more than the royal obligation to pose for formal snaps. I imagine they are compelled to submit to them to offset the extemporé damage done by cheeky paparazzi, a skirt caught by a capricious gust, a highlight winking off a bald patch, a telephotoed sunbathe, a tumble from a horse, an incautious all-fresco wildlife, but I fear it does them less good than their PR department believes. There may be no art to find the mind's construction in the face, but that won't stop 50 million people trying: is he glum, is she lonely, are the kids smart, do they all love one another, would they like to chuck everything up and move to Morecambe, what does

the horse know that we don't? I abhor formal photographs; the more professional the person behind the lens, the ghastlier it is for the person in front. It is like having an interior decorator rearrange your psyche. Try the chin in the hand, they say, pull the hat down, raise one eyebrow, make the smile just a teensy bit more quizzical. Look warm, look heroic, look wry.

You can tell the way I feel by making no more effort than running your eye a couple of inches up this page, though it will not tell you the way I am. You appear, do you not, to be looking through the hatch of a cell-door at a singularly unsavoury inmate. You would not want a loved one to accept a boiled sweet from him.

It took a highly professional photographer several rolls of film to secure that little winner. It was supposed to sum me up. What do you want me to do? I asked him. Look like a humourist, he said.

I cannot begin to tell you how much that photograph depresses me. Not only, as I witter on beneath it of this and that, will readers envisage this horrible head engaged upon the various expeditions undertaken on their behalf, it will continually distract them with speculation as to how it got that way. Life, they will murmur, has not done right by this poor sod. I wonder what it was, exactly?

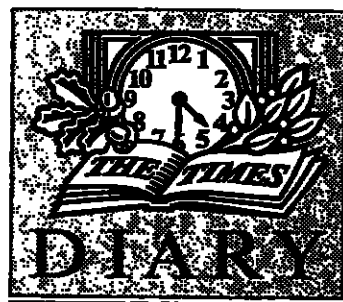
Pity he hasn't got a horse with him. It might give us a clue.

Mandela switches sides

HEADS of state at the Commonwealth summit have been surprised by Nelson Mandela's enthusiasm for the return of South Africa to international test cricket. In fact, says Sunil Gavaskar, the former Indian test captain, Mandela has been waiting for more than 40 years for an opportunity to support his own nation on the cricket field, after years of backing the opposition on principle.

Mandela told Gavaskar that he first became hooked on cricket in 1950 when he watched the teenage prodigy Neil Harvey score a century for Australia against South Africa in Durban. Gavaskar, the world's leading test run scorer, who was in South Africa with Sir Gary Sobers to support the Springboks' return, visited Mandela at his home with Ali Bacher, the last South African test captain. Gavaskar says he was astonished to learn that Mandela was a cricket fan. "In spite of being in prison for all those years, he managed to keep up with what was going on in sport. That test match all those years ago left a very lasting impression on him. He had to watch it in a separate stand for blacks, and he never forgot it as either a sporting or a political experience."

Gavaskar explains: "South Africa were winning until Neil Harvey came in and turned the match. Gavaskar says Mandela's support for the Springboks' return is critical and his love of the game profound. "He called me 'little master' (the nickname by which the Indian opener was known throughout the cricketing world). I told him he was the great master."



Has anyone actually seen the poster campaign launched by Labour this week attacking the government's record on the health service? Newspaper and television cameras were invited to a prominent site on the south side of London's Vauxhall Bridge on Monday, where Labour launched a poster which declared was part of "a major new assault". Yet by Thursday, the poster had failed to materialise anywhere else around the country, and the much-photographed example at Vauxhall had also disappeared. To be replaced by a Marlboro country ad. Labour insists it will be putting up more — soon.

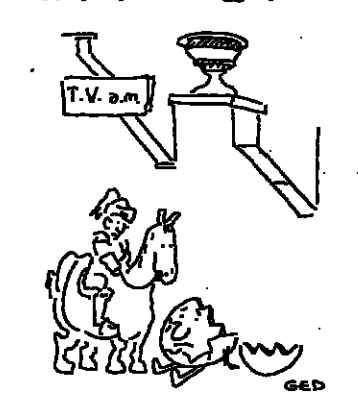
Cracking up

THE fate of Britain's most famous egg-cups was exercising architectural buffs yesterday, following TV-am's loss of its franchise. The brightly coloured features adorn the station's Camden building, which faces an uncertain future. Peter Jay, TV-am's founding father, says: "I am emotionally attached to the building as it has great nostalgic value for me. It's a conversion of the Henry's Garage where I bought my first car in 1961 and where my father bought his 30 years earlier."

Jay says he was "never enthusiastic" about the egg-cups, but felt it was important to give the architect, Terry Farrell, total artistic

freedom. "I wanted a coherent design and not a committee's dog's breakfast."

The architect himself says: "I would hate the building to vanish or for half of it to be taken down. But architecture is quite capable of evolving, and the building could lend itself to other uses. If the Milk Marketing Board were to take it over, colourful milk-bottles could happily replace the egg-cups."



Selling of Serbia

AT LEAST the PR men are making money out of Yugoslavia. With Sir Tim Bell working for the ousted royal family, and another outfit having signed up with the Croats, the Serbs are about to do business with Saatchi and Saatchi. Dragutin Zelenovic, the Serbian prime minister, has approached the agency's office in Belgrade to discuss the possibility of an image-building campaign.

Saatchi's declined. "We decided the global circumstances made it inappropriate," says the company's Belgrade vice president, Ivan Stankovich, "with understatement not characteristic of the industry. Instead, Saatchi's decided, a campaign to promote business opportunities for foreign investors nearaquarries by reaction of colleagues"

Opposing benches

RONALD REAGAN breezed into town yesterday preaching the virtues of Reaganomics as a cure for the ills of the former "evil empire". The message was delivered amid the splendour of the Royal Society of Arts. Whether Reagan knows his Manet from his Monet is a moot point, but the former president paid tribute to the Royal Society of Arts for "promoting the creative role of business in society".

Reagan's planned trip to Oxford this week, however, was called off. "Internal scheduling problems" were the official reason. Others suspect that it had more to do with Nancy discovering that the Oxford Union issued an open invitation to Kitty Kelley some time ago. Nick Edgar, who as president of the Oxford Union was to be Reagan's host for his speech to students, says: "Yes, we have invited Kitty Kelley, and she is keen to come. The two invitations just happened to coincide, but their speeches would have been far apart."

The Dutch are involved in some mind-bending research. Scientists involved in a four-year research programme at the agricultural research institute in Wageningen are planning to open the first-ever cannabis paper mill in 1995. Cannabis has great unexploited potential as a paper-making material, they say, and the plant's leaves are particularly suitable for bank notes and stamps.

THE TIMES FRIDAY OCTOBER 18 1991



SOUTH-EAST SHAKE-OUT

Half the September increase in reported unemployment for the whole United Kingdom, 35,700, was contributed by one region, the South-East of England. Last month brought unemployment there to an additional 17,800 people. With 7.6 per cent of its total workforce unemployed, the South-East is still suffering less in absolute terms than any region except East Anglia (with 6.3 per cent). But it is the rate of growth of unemployment, not the absolute figure, which is the measure of the degree of pain. In contrast, unemployment actually fell by 1,500 in Scotland in September.

The continuing deterioration in the South-East, faster than elsewhere in Britain, is bound to make the government nervous. In 1987 the Tories won 107 of the 108 seats in the South-East outside London and 57 of the 84 seats within it. Many are vulnerable to Labour or to a Liberal Democrat revival. High unemployment accompanied by the middle-class fallout of bankrupt businesses, home repossessions, soaring debt, children removed from fee-paying schools and the rest, could fuel just such a revival.

Nervous ministers may be, but powerless too. Having cut the prime lending rate by 4 per cent in the last year to 11.5 per cent, the same level as in Germany, the government has little leeway for more of the same. But if the economic sun is not going to rise over the South-East until well into next year, then self-help is the best hope of the region's middle classes. Their relief lies not at a macro-economic level, but at the level of the firm and the individual. The South-East is the most service-orientated and therefore the least unionised and least industrial of regional economies. Its residents have often delighted to lecture workers in other regions, particularly in manufacturing industry, "not to price themselves out of a job."

The South-East must learn to practice what it has always preached. Those in the consultancy professions — the law, financial services, property — can easily continue to charge more than the market will bear without realising it. Fees, theoretically negotiable, are in practice presented to

customers as a *fait accompli*. Bills are issued untempered; challenging them is embarrassing; price competition between neighbouring firms is regarded as unfriendly.

Thus are restrictive trade practices made by social pressure to feel acceptable, even invisible. Those levying excess charges may not realise the danger until too late. Sometimes they blithely raise prices in line with or above inflation, on the grounds that continuing customers must compensate them for the business that has been lost from those who can no longer afford their services. But the one virtue of recession is that it makes efficiency, flexibility and value for money essential to job survival rather than merely desirable for job satisfaction.

The legal profession, with a total annual turnover of £5 billion and a considerable and typical employer in the South-East, is a case in point. Yesterday, the president of the Law Society, Philip Ely, was predicting further job losses among solicitors and their professional acolytes. Meanwhile the Law Society itself is laying off many staff at its London headquarters. The society's secretary general, John Hayes, said there are hundreds of solicitors round the country who are unable to find jobs.

The day before, however, the society was congratulating itself on a 16 per cent rise in total income from fees in the financial year 1990-1. In the London area, the increase was a staggering 22 per cent. Solicitors in effect awarded themselves a pay rise of 13 per cent last year and 14 per cent this. Businessmen staffing off bankruptcies are shocked to find themselves charged up to £300 an hour for legal advice by commercial lawyers.

If such short-term self-interest in the legal profession is at all representative of the way the rest of the middle classes in the South-East are facing the recession, then it is no wonder unemployment in the region is rising faster than elsewhere. The 1980-1 recession caused a great shake-out of inefficiency and overmanning in industry. The 1990-1 recession should be allowed to do the same for services.

SANCTIONS DESANCTIFIED

Nelson Mandela is officially just an observer at the Commonwealth summit in Harare. But as a possible future president of South Africa he has been courted by every head of government. Yesterday Mr Mandela invited the Australian prime minister, Bob Hawke, to visit South Africa — it seems, with President F. W. de Klerk's blessing.

The leader of the African National Congress has made a rapid transition from incarcerated hero to quasi-ambassador. This admirably suits Pretoria, the indirect beneficiary of the country's new respectability. But where does that leave the ANC's view on sanctions, and its virtual veto over their lifting by many Commonwealth states? At Harare Mr Mandela will have been aware that support for sanctions even among black African states is dwindling fast. In recent weeks Kenya has dropped its pretence of trade sanctions to the point at which the state airline now flies businessmen to South Africa. South African goods, often disguised by fake labels, are sold all over black Africa. The "front-line states" have long acted as secret conduits for South African goods. The lifting of most European and American sanctions rendered nugatory those still operated by some Commonwealth states. John Major, who wants to end sanctions, is knocking at an open door.

Mr Mandela has none the less ostensibly tried to persuade the conference that economic sanctions should remain in place at least until an interim multi-racial government is actually in office in Pretoria. He concedes that sanctions now have a limited shelf-life, but argues that Mr de Klerk still needs the carrot of a gradually phased lifting of sanctions tied to white concessions during the round-table talks on the new constitution. This was the position agreed by a number of Commonwealth leaders at Delhi earlier this year.

RENEWABLE ELEPHANTS

Six African governments have appealed for the controlled resumption of the ivory trade when a ban agreed in 1989 comes up for review next year. They argue that their peasants need economic incentives to treat elephants as a renewable resource rather than as a pest to be eliminated, and that governments need the revenue to police against poachers. Britain and others want to maintain the ban until it is certain that the species could survive the resumed trade.

Only two questions were asked in 1989: could a ban be made to work and, if so, would it save the African elephant from extinction? The ban has been in effect for only 22 months, but already the answer to the first question is yes. Those who claimed that a ban would be unworkable and would simply drive up black market prices, increasing incentives for poachers, have been proved wrong. In China, Hong Kong and Japan, sales and prices have plummeted. In Africa, poaching has declined dramatically. The ban has closed the loopholes in the "legal" trade. Black market prices in Africa have slumped for lack of buyers — in Zaire, for instance, from \$95 to \$10 per kilogram.

The answer to the second question is more complex. In the countries where game management is weak, herds had been so depleted that recovery will take many more years. In South Africa and Zimbabwe (although not in some other countries which are appealing for a lifting of the ban), game management is serious business. One result is over-population: robust herds are having to be culled to prevent damage to their

habitats. Both countries want to sell the ivory "by-product" of these culls, saying that they see no reason to be penalised for lawlessness in other countries. They also say that they can keep the trade legal.

The evidence so far is against them. Between 1973 and 1990, when the trade was supposed to be subject to stringent international controls, ivory poaching and smuggling flourished. Africa's elephant population fell from around two million to 600,000. Certificates of origin meant little. Between 1986 and 1988 South Africa filed export quotas for more than 34,000 tusks, a figure far beyond its total elephant population.

Elephant-lovers must, however, see reason. Africa is no longer a true wilderness. To survive, elephants must cohabit with humans under the latter's protection. There is a conservationist case for culling. Responsible governments which have made a successful tourist industry out of live elephants should be able to add revenue from culling and from big game shooting of old bulls without bringing down the wrath of the wildlife lobby. There may even be a case for relaxing the UN convention to allow controlled trade in the skins of culled elephants. These take too long to remove to be of interest to poachers. But only the skins: the evidence is that easily smuggled ivory is what makes elephants vulnerable to poaching. So long as there was a legal market, illegal ivory made its way into it. There is no reason yet to believe that this would not happen again. The ban should stay for the time being.

British Airways' choice of engine

From the Chairman of British Airways

Sir, Lord Caldecote argues (letter, October 17) that in purchasing engines and aircraft British Airways should subordinate the interests of the company and its shareholders to the wider needs of British industry.

The evidence does not support Lord Caldecote's argument. It is because protectionism is not a feasible option for this country that the present government has favoured a policy of promoting competition.

It is the policy of British Airways to buy British when price, quality and technical specification are competitive. But we are an international airline operating in a global market. More than 60 per cent of our business is generated overseas. Some 40 per cent of our shares are held by non-UK nationals. If US carriers were to follow the logic of Lord Caldecote's argument Rolls-Royce would be excluded from the world's largest aero-engine market.

The choice of an aircraft or aero-engine is determined by the airline's judgment of its technical qualities and of the commercial benefit to the airline.

In the recent competition we were satisfied that the engines for our Boeing 777s offered by the three contenders (General Electric, Pratt and Whitney, and Rolls-Royce) would all be capable of doing what

they were designed to do (report, August 22).

Our commercial judgment was based upon the initial price to the airline and our assessment of the ongoing operating costs of the engine/aircraft combination. Our selection was based on the winner by a clear margin of this competition.

We have the greatest admiration for the quality of Rolls-Royce's products and remain their best customer. We have been the launch customer for Rolls-Royce-powered Boeing 747, 757 and 767 aircraft.

When BOAC decided to buy Boeing 707 aircraft instead of VC10 and Super VC10 aircraft they did so because they judged the latter to be uncompetitive with the fleet at that time operated across the Atlantic by Pan Am. Lord Caldecote does not mention that the first Boeing 707s ordered by BOAC were powered by Rolls-Royce/Conway engines. Later deliveries were powered by the more fuel-efficient Pratt and Whitney JT3 engine. The VC10 and the Trident are both examples of high-quality British engineering products which were commercially uncompetitive in world markets.

Yours sincerely,
KING, Chairman,
British Airways,
Enserch House,
8 St James's Square, SW1,
October 17.

The NHS: profit and the public purse

From Dr M. S. T. A. Lawrence

Sir, Why all this argument about whether the National Health Service will be privatised? It has been privatised already. The government argues that health care will always be free, but that is a purchaser criterion, and privatisation relates to providers not purchasers.

Dustbin collection is free, but many of the contracts are now operated privately. Were the purchaser of the NHS to be privatised, say by compulsory insurance, that would be privatisation far beyond any precedent.

The NHS has, by the government's reforms, been divided clearly into purchasers and providers. The purchasers, increasingly fund-holding general practices, are given NHS money to buy services for their patients. They can spend that money with any provider, private or NHS.

They are buying private hospital care, and even services such as physiotherapy, from profit-making companies which they themselves have set up. Naturally the straightforward items for uncomplicated patients will be bought in the private sector, leaving complicated matters to the public sector, where unit costs will steadily rise. We have seen it happen with the charity hospitals in the USA.

Hospital trusts are a halfway house. Technically NHS, they operate in a market place, no longer obtaining their money by direct funding but by achieving contracts with purchasers. They are liable to go bankrupt if they fail to earn enough. They are private in all but ownership, and could be sold off at any time with minimal change in management.

The question to be asked is not whether privatisation will happen, but whether it is a good thing. It may well be the fastest way to achieve quality, efficiency and rationalisation of services. In London it has demonstrated the over-provision of services so fast that the government has had to stop its own policies and order an enquiry.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN LAWRENCE,
West Street Surgery,
12 West Street,
Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire,
October 14.

From Dr John Fry
Sir, The frenetic politicking over the "privatisation" of the National Health Service lacks common sense.

The per capita annual cost of the NHS this year will be over £500. It matters little whether the cost of our health care comes out of direct general taxation, as of now, or out of indirect "privatised" taxation such

as payment for eye tests, prescription charges or pre-paid insurance.

Health care will still cost each of us over £500 annually. This figure is less than one half that in the USA and one third that spent in most Western European countries with no greater health benefit to the general public in those countries.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN FRY,
3 Kings Court,
Kelsey Park Avenue,
Berkhamstead, Kent,
October 14.

From Professor David Marsland

Sir, Your lead editorial, "Unhealthy politics" (October 11), is as important as any you have published in the past decade. Reform of the health service is indeed absolutely essential. Control of abuses by health-care workers is, just as you say, overdue. The Opposition is behaving wholly irresponsibly, as your analysis suggests.

Whichever party were in power, the government would have to wrestle with the four enemies of health-care reform which I examined in a speech at the Blackpool conference: political expediency, outmoded ideology, vested interests and the burdensome weight of habit.

If the NHS is to address the new and escalating challenges of the 1990s effectively, reform is essential. The health-care reactionaries' long-playing whine about underfunding is as irrelevant as it is implausible.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID MARSLAND,
Gordon House,
300 St Margaret's Road,
Twickenham, Middlesex.

From Mr John Gooddy
Sir, Whilst a patient's charter is being considered, it would be useful if a charter for those actually working the service could also be considered, covering such matters as:

Junior doctors working in excess of 80 hours a week.
Thirty-nine thousand nurses who after three years still await regrading appeals.

Highly qualified senior registrars who lack the consultant posts for which they have trained.

Perhaps a "mention in dispatches" for the consultant neurosurgeon whose services were available at 10.30pm on a Saturday night in the City of London to treat a gravely injured boxer.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN GOODDY,
Lesta House,
Bampton, Oxfordshire.

National anthem

From Mr Colin Kitching

Sir, Usually I hear the national anthem sung properly a mere four times a year — in our parish church on Remembrance Sunday, in the Albert Hall on the last night of the Proms and twice at Twickenham, before England's home rugby internationals.

This year, however, I have heard the anthem on three extra occasions, thanks to the rugby World Cup. Without being too sanguine I hope it will ring out again at Twickenham in November.

But why is *God Save the Queen* so rarely sung now? Is it self-consciousness, or general yobbishness, or what? And is the national anthem ever sung in Scotland or Wales these days?

Yours faithfully,
COLIN KITCHING,
24 Chestnut Way, Repton, Derby.

Land of the living

From Mr A. H. P. Humphrey

Sir, Mr Stamp (October 15) must surely tell Commercial Union on how many days he has felt more dead than alive. The company can then reduce his annuity pro rata.

Yours faithfully,
A. H. P. HUMPHREY,
14 Ambrose Place,
Worthing, West Sussex.

Business letters, page 28

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Honouring wartime special forces

From the Deputy Director General of the Imperial War Museum

Sir, Mr Siddleley (letter, October 8) and Nigel West (article, October 12) are right to suggest a museum dealing with intelligence and special operations and I can confirm Mr West's report that the Imperial War Museum and the Special Forces Club have been working together for several years to accumulate suitable display material with this end in view.

The aim is, indeed, to establish a permanent special forces exhibition in the museum's main building as soon as the funds for completing its refurbishment are available. This display will serve both as a record of special operations and as a memorial to the bravery of those who took part in them.

It will also have the important advantages first, of enabling our visitors to study these events against the wider background of the story of the international conflicts to which they relate and secondly, of utilising fully the curatorial and other resources of the appropriate existing national institution which already has significant collections in this field.

Finally, Mr West will be reassured to know that our Enigma German code machine (bought, incidentally, in the open market from a dealer) is displayed, in a prominent position, with its lid open, and an explanation of how it was used and why it was so important.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT CRAWFORD,
Deputy Director General,
Imperial War Museum,
Lambeth Road, SE1,
October 15.

From Brigadier R. L. Stonham

(ret)
Sir, Readers of Nigel West's fascinating article may like to know that the Royal Signals Museum at Blandford (not Trowbridge) plans to build a new, larger museum of army communications, just outside the boundary of the military camp. This will give unrestricted access to the public and enable us to display our full range of artefacts, using audio-visual effects, dioramas, tableaux and voice commentaries.

We already have an Enigma machine on display and propose to make this the centrepiece of one of the tableaux; another will feature the several suitcase wireless transmitters in our collection.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD STONHAM,
(Project Manager, Museum of Army Communications),
Royal Signals Museum,
Blandford Camp,
Blandford, Dorset,
October 15.

Army overstretch

From General Sir Martin Farndale

Sir, Your editorial on defence (October 14) omits several key issues. To judge the correctness or otherwise of the Options for Change plan it is important to know that the army has already been cut back over the years, mainly by reducing establishments, so that now few units can man all their equipments in peacetime. All need reinforcement from other units before going on operational tasks, even in Northern Ireland.

The army today already suffers from acute overstretch. So far no commitments have been eliminated; that in the Central Region has altered enough, we are told, to enable the withdrawal and disbandment of some 22 units (ten infantry, seven armoured and five artillery).

But the "Options" plan proposes to cut 27 units from the Central Region (13 infantry, eight armoured and six artillery) and a further four will go in 1997 when we leave Hong Kong. The army is thus bound to become more overstretched unless commitments are drastically reduced further or the number of units and their establishments increased.

The problem that will not go away is that of providing a relief for those

regiments/battalions around the world and Northern Ireland every six months, of giving an interval between these tours of 24 months and, at the same time, maintaining primary defence tasks at full strength, bringing all units back to an establishment whereby they can man all their equipments and giving men enough time to train for modern "hi-tech" warfare.

An army of 116,000, with 12,000 permanently under training, is not enough, as time will show; 125,000 is an absolute minimum. I fear for "smaller and better".

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN FARNDALE,
(Commander-in-Chief,
BAOR, 1985-7),
16 St James's Square, SW1,
October 15.

From Lady Macmillan
Sir, Our prime minister said of his job: "I've got it. I like it, I intend to keep it." Scotland has them, Scotland likes them, Scotland wants to keep them. Could Mr Major and Scottish voters help each other?

Yours sincerely,
BELINDA MACMILLAN
(Keep Our Scottish Battalions Campaign),
Boghall Farm, Thornhill, Stirling.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES BAKER-CRESSWELL,
Chairman,
The Fusilier Museum of Northumberland,
Abbot's Tower, Alnwick Castle,
Northumberland,
October 13.

From Sir John Barran
Sir, Congratulations on the excellent article on "Britain's secret history". There is no doubt that without our expertise in intelligence, deception and code-breaking we would not have won the war. The flood of books which have appeared since the 30-year rule was passed has enabled us to get some inkling of our amazing achievements in these fields; but now that the external threat from communism has really died down, we can at last enter areas which (for sound security reasons) have been out of bounds for so long.

The younger generation has little detailed knowledge of what went on and (with the exception of the underground war rooms in Whitehall) there is virtually nothing to see.

As part of the "peace dividend" could not some of the money currently spent on equipping the services (the price of a Tornado per se) be used to open up and maintain these secret places — and their study be incorporated in the school syllabus for the history of the 20th century?

I hope that Nigel West will be stimulated to follow up his fascinating and thought-provoking article.

Yours sincerely,
J. BARRAN,
17 St Leonard's Terrace, SW3,
October 12.

From Lady Macmillan
Sir, Our prime minister said of his job: "I've got it. I like it, I intend to keep it." Scotland has them, Scotland likes them, Scotland wants to keep them. Could Mr Major and Scottish voters help each other?

Yours sincerely,
BELINDA MACMILLAN
(Keep Our Scottish Battalions Campaign),
Boghall Farm, Thornhill, Stirling.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. AUGARDE
(Campaign organiser),
Peace Pledge Union,
6 Endsleigh Street, WC1,
October 15.

From Mr A. J. Augarde
Sir, It is ironic that letters complaining at the proposed defence cuts (October 15) are printed alongside the editorial in which you rightly praise Aung San Suu Kyi, the winner of the Nobel peace prize, for her "resolutely non-violent message".

Who, I wonder, has the greater moral courage: those who plead for Britain to keep its unnecessarily large armed forces, or this Burmese woman who has adhered to non-violence even against a brutal military dictatorship?

Yours faithfully,
A. J. AUGARDE
(Campaign organiser),
Peace Pledge Union,
6 Endsleigh Street, WC1,
October 15.

Immigration policy

From the Minister for Immigration

Sir, Mr Barry Walker commented (letter, October 16) about your report on October 14 concerning two Russian composers who had allegedly been granted "sanctuary" in this country. I think that it is right, in fairness to the two applicants, to set the record straight, although we do not normally comment on individual immigration cases.

Under the immigration rules, writers and artists, including composers, who have demonstrated their ability to earn a living for themselves and their families using their talents, and who will not require recourse to public funds, are entitled to be granted UK visas for this purpose. Such people may stay here for a period of up to four years. It is in this capacity that the two composers qualify for visas.

The asylum procedures and the government's proposals to introduce measures to curb their abuse have no relevance in this case. Neither of these two composers has applied for asylum in the United Kingdom and it is regrettable that a spurious political point has been made at their expense.

Yours faithfully,
PETER LLOYD,
Home Office,
Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Peace and defence

From Mr A. J. Augarde

Sir, It is ironic that letters complaining at the proposed defence cuts (October 15) are printed alongside the editorial in which you rightly praise Aung San Suu Kyi, the winner of the Nobel peace prize, for her "resolutely non-violent message".

Who, I wonder, has the greater moral courage: those who plead for Britain to keep its unnecessarily large armed forces, or this Burmese woman who has adhered to non-violence even against a brutal military dictatorship?

Yours faithfully,
A. J. AUGARDE
(Campaign organiser),
Peace Pledge Union,
6 Endsleigh Street, WC1,
October 15.

Weighty issue

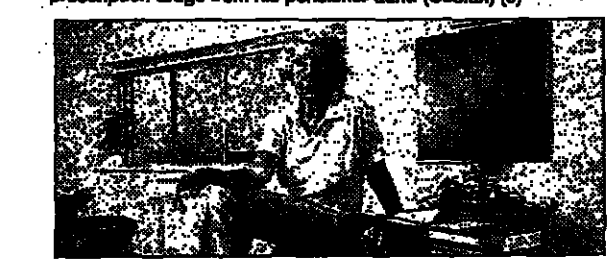
From Mr Douglas Halliday

Sir, Having carefully calculated my requirements, I recently attempted to buy 100 metres of wire at my local hardware store. However I was met by blank incomprehension on the part of the assistant, who told me that wire was only sold "by weight".

Are there other examples of totally inappropriate units of sale for everyday items?

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS HALLIDAY,
The Old Bakery, Stourton,
Shipston on Stour, Warwickshire,
October 14.

6.00 **Ceebees** 6.30 **Breakfast News**
9.05 **Kilroy**, Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on the menopause. With Germaine Greer and Britt Eldard **9.50** **Hot Chicks**. Gery Rhodes prepares conflict of duck
10.00 **News**, regional news and weather **10.05** **Playdays** (r) **10.25** **The Family News**. Cartoon adventures **10.35** **Homebase**. The first in a new series of homebase and interior design ideas
11.00 **News**, regional news and weather **11.05** **No Kidding**. Quiz game show for families **11.30** **People Today**. The guests include *The Times* columnist Matthew Parris **12.20** **Pebble** **12.30** **With Alan Titchmarsh** **12.55** **Regional news and weather**
1.00 **One O'Clock News** and weather **1.30** **Neighbours**. (Ceebees) (s)
1.50 **Films: Life With Father** (1947)
2.00 **CHOICE**: The Hungarian-born Michael Curtiz was a director for all genres, turning his hand to musicals, melodramas, westerns and screwball comedies, and among a huge and uneven output managing to produce some of the best examples of each. It was Curtiz who made *The Adventures of Robin Hood* and *Yankee Doodle Dandy* and *Casablanca*. With *Life With Father* he essayed yet another form, period comedy. The script, by Donald Ogden Stewart, was based on a play which ran eight years on Broadway. William Powell plays the well-to-do head of a New York family at the end of the last century. He is old-fashioned, quick tempered and furnishes the film with one of its most plot lines by refusing to be baptised. Irene Dunne plays his loyal but put-upon wife and the 15-year-old Elizabeth Taylor is their son's girlfriend. It is a comfortably upholstered film, even if it lacks some of Curtiz's usual sparkle
3.50 **Play** **3.55** **The Little Green Planet Show** (s) **4.10** **The Legend of Prince Valiant** (s) **4.35** **Record Breakers**. Includes conductor Carl Davis in a musical record attempt
5.00 **Newsround** **5.10** **Grange Hill** (r). (Ceebees) (s)
5.35 **Neighbours** (r). (Ceebees) (s). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 **O'Clock News** with Anna Ford and Laurie Mayer. Weather: **6.30** **Regional News**. Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
7.00 **Wogan**. Tonight's guests are singer Mariah Carey, television chef Graham Kerr and young actor Macaulay Culkin (s)
7.35 **Harry and the Hendersons**. American comedy series. (Ceebees)
8.00 **Last of the Summer Wine**. A welcome return for Roy Clarke's comic pastiches. *Compton*, *Chag and Toggery*. Starring Bill Owen, Peter Sallis and Brian Wilde. (Ceebees) (s)
8.30 **The Russ Abbott Show**. Frantic comedy sketches. (Ceebees) (s)
9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Martyn Lewis. (Ceebees) Regional news and weather
9.30 **Comedy**. This week the head-pressed staff have to deal with a man with a painful renal complaint; and a young addict who buys prescription drugs from his pensioner aunt. (Ceebees) (s)



Voice of conscience: Martha Gellhorn's 60-year war (10.20pm)

10.20 **Comedian: Martha Gellhorn**
CHOICE: "The rebellion of the private conscience," says Martha Gellhorn, "is the last safeguard of civilisation." For 50 years Gellhorn has lived out her aphorism, reporting a steadily increasing tide of human evil through the American Depression, the Spanish civil war, Czechoslovakia, Dachau and Vietnam. Last year she was in Panama assessing the cost of the American invasion. She is now 82 but says she is still not ready to settle back and play bridge. This *Comedian* portrait is a chronicle of Gellhorn's working life, told mainly in her own words and giving equal weight to her journalism and her fiction. She is the reporter in the classic mould, tough, resourceful and not afraid of ruffling feathers. She got herself to D-Day by sneaking on to a hospital ship and pretending she was writing a feature about nurses. Until Dachau, she says, she was an optimist. Since then she has been a pessimist and she continues to find much to be pessimistic about. Northern Ireland: Johnny Logan and Friends **10.50** **Comedian**
11.10 **Film: The California Dolls** (1981) Louche and quirky drama starring Peter Falk as the wise-cracking manager of a women's wrestling team who have hit hard times. Their big chance comes when they are lined up to meet the fearsome Toledo Tigers at the Grand hotel in Reno. The last picture made by director Robert Aldrich. (Ceebees). Northern Ireland: **11.40-11.55** **Film: The Friends of Eddie Coyle** 1.00am **Weather**

8.00 **News**
8.15 **Westminster**. A round-up of business from both houses
8.30 **World Today**. 9.45 A grandmother reminisces about the Coronation **10.00** **Look and Read** **10.20** **Scottish Highland life** 200 years ago **10.40** **Into Music** **11.00** **Women's battle** to achieve equality **12.00** **English** - language and power **12.30** **Why parties are important** social occasions **1.00** **Standard Grade Physical Education** **1.20** **The Broyles** **1.35** **Crystal Tips** and *Alister* **1.40** **English Time**
2.00 **News and weather** followed by *Words and Pictures*. Reading for five to seven-year-olds
2.15 **Sport on Friday** presented by Helen Rolleson. The line-up is: *Golf: Steve Rider* introduces live coverage of the quarter-final action in the Toyota World Match Play championship from Wentworth club, Surrey; and *Football*: a review of this week's crucial European championship qualifying games involving the home countries. With news and weather at 3.00 and 3.30
5.30 **Top Gear**. A visit to London's Earl's Court to see the latest models in this year's Motorist '91: a road test of the new Vauxhall Astra; and a profile of racing Formula 3 driver David Coulthard (r)
6.00 **Thunderbirds**. Gerry Anderson's cult puppet adventure series. Scott is shot down over the desert by three unidentified aircraft. Fortunately he is rescued by two American archaeologists, but back at base they are unaware that he is safe and leap into action. (Ceebees)
6.50 **Supersense**. The intriguing series which looks at the world from a scientist's point of view. This week time-lapse and high-speed photography helps to evaluate what time means to animals (r). (Ceebees)
7.20 **Barry** (r/v). Phil Silvers stars as the fly sergeant, frustrated beyond measure by Dobson's refusal to spend any of his newly-acquired fortune (r)
7.45 **What the Papers Say**. Freelance journalist Russell Davies reviews how the national press has treated the week's news
8.00 **Public Eye**. The Health Minister is looking for a *Public Eye* investigation into whether the National Health Service should up its ante and provide efficiency and choice for those who need it. Includes an interview with the health minister, Stephen Dorrell.
8.30 **Dream Gardens**. In this third of six programmes about inspirational gardens Alex Dingwall Main looks at the different uses of water in garden design, visiting examples in Hampshire, Derbyshire and Gloucestershire
9.00 **Clochemare**. Episodes three of the Alan Galt and Roy Simpson adaptation of Gabriel Chevalier's classic comic novel about petty politics in a rural French town. Starring Cyril Cusack, Roy Dotrice and Wendy Hiller (r)
9.30 **The Power and the Glory**. The 13-part series on the history of motor racing continues with a look at what it takes to become a top driver. Among those interviewed are Nigel Mansell and Stirling Moss (s) (Ceebees) (s)
10.00 **Have I Got News For You?** Comedy news quiz chaired by Angus Deayton. This week the regular team captains, Ian Hapton and Paul Merton, are joined by Tony Banks, MP, and comedian Rory McGrath (s)
10.30 **Newsnight** with Sue Cameron
11.15 **Scrutiny**. Ian McWhirter with the first in a series in which he follows the business of the select committees
11.45 **Mystery Train** introduced by Richard O'Brien begins with *The Night Stalker* - the Spanish Moslems. Carl Kolchak, the supernatural investigator, comes face to face with the terrifying monster of the swamps
12.00am **Film: Earth vs The Spider** (1958, b/w). Z movie horror about a rampaging arachnid that goes berserk. A movie school dance. Directed by Sci-Fi Gordon
1.50 **Kevin Flux**. A sci-fi thriller about a dangerous woman
2.15 **Weather**



A view from the fast lane: Nigel Mansell celebrates (9.30pm)

9.30 **The Power and the Glory**. The 13-part series on the history of motor racing continues with a look at what it takes to become a top driver. Among those interviewed are Nigel Mansell and Stirling Moss (s) (Ceebees) (s)
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2.15 **Weather**

6.00 **TV-am**
9.25 **Jeopardy!** Quiz game show in which Steve Jones gives the answers and the contestants have to provide the questions **9.55** **Thames News** and weather
10.00 **The Time ... the Place ...** Mike Scott chairs a debate on a topical subject
10.40 **This Morning**. Family magazine series presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Today's edition includes fashion, hair and make-up advice and a vegetarian recipe. With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather
12.10 **Rainbow**. Educational series for children
12.30 **News** with John Suchet. (Oracle) **1.10** **Thames News** and weather
1.20 **Home and Away**. Australian family drama series. (Oracle) **1.50** **A Country Practice**. Medical drama series set in the Australian outback (s)
2.20 **A Problem A Week**. Viewers' emotional problems discussed by experts (r) **2.50** **Give Us a Clue**. Celebrity charades chaired by Michael Parkinson (s)
3.15 **ITN News** headlines **3.20** **Thames News** headlines **3.25** **The Young Doctors**. Medical drama series set in a large Australian city hospital
3.55 **Doyle**. Animation **4.05** **Victor and Hugo**. Cartoon series about a couple of incompetent French crooks (s)
4.30 **Knightsmare**. Children's adventure game starring Clifford Norgate as the wizard Hordog
4.50 **Cartoon** featuring *Poly Pig*
5.10 **Home and Away** (r). (Oracle)
5.40 **News** with Fiona Armstrong. (Oracle) **Weather**
5.55 **Six O'Clock News** presented by Michael Aspel and Joanna Shekton. The guests include Paul McCartney and the lady who is Paul Gascoigne's new image maker. Live from the HMV store in Oxford Street, Jenni Barnett meets Dame Kiri Te Kanawa. Followed by LWT weather
7.00 **The \$64,000 Question**. Quiz game show with cash prizes, introduced by Bob Monkhouse (s)
7.30 **Coronation Street**. (Oracle)
8.00 **You Bet With Matthew Kelly and Ellis Ward**. This week's challenges include an attempt to hit cricket stumps 20 times in two minutes from a distance of 15 metres; to walk 100 metres faster than sprinter John Regis can run twice the distance; and to form a ten-person human pyramid of five tiers in less than three minutes (s)
9.00 **The Trials of Rosie O'Neill**. Watchable American courtroom drama starring Sharon Gless as a public prosecutor. Here she tries to cut through the red tape that prevents a woman who is morally incapable of looking after herself from being placed in an institution. (Oracle)
10.00 **News at Ten** with Julia Somerville and Fiona Armstrong. (Oracle) **Weather** **10.35** **LWT News** and weather
10.40 **The London Programme**. This 500th edition investigates the effect on Brent council of the alliance of two defuncting Labour councillors and the Conservative Party
11.10 **Rugby World Cup**. Frank Bough previews this weekend's quarter-finals in Paris, Edinburgh, Dublin and Lille
12.05am **Murdered ... with Children**. American domestic comedy series **12.35** **Elvis: Good Rockin' Tonight**. Continuing the dramatised account of the life and career of Elvis Presley (s)
1.05 **James Whale Radio Show**. The controversial chat show host tries to embrace another collection of telephone callers (s)
2.10 **American Gladiators**. Trials of strength and ingenuity for both sexes
3.05 **Cinematreasures**. Charlie Tuna with the latest news from Hollywood
3.35 **Ramp Power**. Rock videos (s)
4.35 **Garrison's Gorillas**. American drama series from the 1960s following the fortunes of an irregular band of soldiers on active duty in Europe during World War II. Ends at 6.00
5.30 **ITN Morning News** with Phil Roman. Ends at 6.00



Adventure time: Clifford Norgate plays the wizard (4.30pm)

4.30 **Knightsmare**. Children's adventure game starring Clifford Norgate as the wizard Hordog
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5.10 **Home and Away** (r). (Oracle)
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CHANNEL 4

6.00 **Channel 4 Daily**
9.25 **Schools**
12.00 **The Parliament Programme** presented by Anne Perkins, with reports from Nicholas Woolley
12.30 **Business Daily**. News from the world's money markets
1.00 **Sesame Street**. Pre-school learning series
2.00 **Art of the Western World**. Michael Wood continues his series on the history and development of Western art. Today's programme examines the work of Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael and Michelangelo
2.30 **Channel 4 Racing** from Newmarket. Brough Scott introduces live coverage of the Baring International Darley Stakes (2.35); Rockfoll Stakes (3.05); the Three Chimneys Dewhurst Stakes (3.40); and the Tattersalls Sales Stakes (4.15)
4.30 **Fifteen-to-One**. Fast-moving quiz show hosted by William G. Stewart (s)
5.00 **The Enchanted Sea**. The ninth of a ten-part portrait of the Mediterranean and the people who live on its shores celebrates some of the sea's great battles (r). (Teletext)
5.30 **I Love Lucy** (b/w). Classic scatterbrained comedy from Lucille Ball
6.00 **Roseanne**. American domestic comedy starring Roseanne Barr
6.30 **Birthdaysomething**. Showbiz magazine presented by Ann Bryson and Maria McEneaney. Includes interviews with Jeremy Beadle and Corbin Bleu and a feature on the *Inspector Morse* series
7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi. (Teletext) **Weather**
7.50 **First Reaction**. Gerry Anderson asks his *Thunderbirds* puppets Lady Penelope and an unheated Parker their opinion of the new *Thunderbirds*
8.00 **Brookside**. An invited mourner at the funeral of Sue and Daniel causes Terry's grief to turn to blind fury. (Teletext) (s)
8.30 **Anton Moshmann** - Naturally. In the penultimate programme of his series on innovative cooking Anton Moshmann returns to his native Switzerland to see how the best chocolate in the world is produced. (Teletext)
9.00 **Chewers**. Repeat run of the first series of the award-winning comedy set in a Boston bar. Tonight Sam (Ted Danson) is made an offer he cannot refuse by a glamorous television executive - until Diane (Shelley Long) points out something in the small print (r). (Teletext)
9.30 **Microscopic Magic**. The third of Michael Jordan's six-part series on the world of mushrooms. In this programme he meets French mushroom trader Jean-Claude Montiel who explains why mushroom hunting can be fun (r). (Teletext)
10.00 **Dream On**. American comedy series starring Brian Benben and Julie Carmen. This week Martin goes too far when he calls against the footballers of Nina when she is arrested for ecological guerrilla action, and then discovers she has rights on her side. (Teletext) (s)
10.35 **Clive Anderson Talks Back**. With Stephen Fry, Phil Collins and Lady Olga Matland (s)



Recalling the punk era: the Sex Pistols in concert (11.15pm)

11.15 **Punk**
CHOICE: Malcolm McLaren exhorted his punk followers to "be childish, be irresponsible, be disrespectful, be everything this society hates". They took him up on it, with results that changed some of the most important faces of pop music. The lives of the punk era is strongly captured in this compilation of performance footage from a 1970s Granada Television series. So it goes. Here again, trying to be outrageous, are the Sex Pistols, the Clash, Iggy Pop and Siouxsie and the Banshees. Elvis Costello declares that his destiny is to be an infant and the now respectable Bob Geldof fronts the *Backstreet Rats*. "Punk is garbage," declared the *Sunday Times* critic, David Jewell, and it is tempting to agree. At least no one can have objected to the lyrics, since they are totally incomprehensible. The programme launches a weekend of punk celebration on Channel 4
12.15am **Film: The Great Rock 'n' Roll Swindle** (1979) starring the Sex Pistols and Malcolm McLaren. A docu-drama about the rise and fall of the anarchic punk rock band, the Sex Pistols, three members of which have since died. Directed by Julian Temple, who went on to make *Absolute Beginners*. Ends at 2.05

2.05 **Dirty Dancing** 3.00 **Night Beat**
4.00 **Comedian** 4.30-5.30 **Film: The Hit** **WEST**
As London except: 2.20pm-2.50 Women's European Cup **5.10-5.40** **High Road** **6.00** **Home and Away** **6.25-7.00** **Anglia News** **10.40** **The Young Riders** **11.40-12.35** **Rugby World Cup** (r)
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7.00 **Morning Concert**. Walton (Overture, Pompanoni; Stok; LPO under Leonard Slatkin); Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 2, BWV 1047; Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment); Schubert (The Lord is My Shepherd, Op 705); Brahms (Bavarian, Op 44 No 3; Quatuor of Winchester College under Julian Smith)
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● 12-PAGE APPOINTMENTS SECTION



THE TIMES

BUSINESS

FRIDAY OCTOBER 18 1991

23

Business Editor
John Bell

WEEKEND
MONEY
TOMORROW

PROFILE



Peter Rawlins, chief executive of the London Stock Exchange, does not mince his words. He once told exchange council members that they were like "a load of dinosaurs". He talks to Carol Leonard

HAPPY RETURNS

Tomorrow is the fourth anniversary of the stock market crash. Lindsay Cook and Sara McConnell look at how various investments have fared and find some surprises

SUBSIDENCE TESTS

Homeowners who help prospective buyers and allow tests for subsidence to be carried out could end up with a blighted house

Orlov claims

Count Alexei Orlov, leader of the smaller shareholders' action group at Brest Walker, claims that investors with 38 per cent of the stock oppose the financial reshaping being carried out by the group's banks.

He says he has received 6,500 replies to a circular letter to shareholders.

Dividend held

Hunting, the defence, aviation, oil and technology group, is holding its interim dividend at 4p a share after pre-tax profits in the six months to end-June slipped from £19.9 million to £15.6 million. *Tempsa, page 26*

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7115 (+0.0035)
German mark 2.9121 (same)
Exchange index 90.3 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1986.8 (+6.3)
FT-SE 100 2588.7 (+9.7)
New York Dow Jones 3053.00 (-8.72)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 24439.85 (+105.18)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Sunset & Vine 172 1/2p (+13p)
Rank Org 65 1/2p (+14p)
Schroder 58 1/2p (+10p)
Henry Boot 68 1/2p (+13p)
Wellcome 735 1/2p (+14p)
Enterprise 54 1/2p (+11p)
Ultras 54 1/2p (+11p)
News Corp 54 1/2p (+11p)
Thomson Corp 78 1/2p (+20p)
Mersey Docks 22 1/2p (+18p)
Antellega 50 1/2p (+20p)
Alumac 35 1/2p (+11p)
FALLS:
Auto Sec 130p (-27p)
Fisons 360p (-11p)
ADT 52 1/2p (-24p)
Carlton Comm 51 1/2p (-10p)
Bardays 32 1/2p (-10p)
Gerrard Nat 32 1/2p (-10p)
Yorkshire TV 15 1/2p (-22p)
Eurotunnel Int 432 1/2p (-9p)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10 1/2%
3-month interbank: 10 1/2%-10 3/4%
3-month eligible bills: 10 1/2%-10 3/4%
US: Prime Rate 8 1/2%
Federal Funds 5 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 5.02-5.01%
30-year bonds 10 1/2%-10 1/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£ \$1.7085
DM £2.9113
Sfr £2.5446
FF £9.8180
Yen £221.46
ECU £0.70308
SDR £0.795327
ECU £205.79
London foreign market close

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$357.75 pm \$358.30
close \$358.30-358.50 (\$209.50-210.00)
New York:
Comex \$358.25-359.75

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Nov) \$22.70 bbl (\$22.45)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 134.8 September (1987=100)
Denotes midday trading price

Documents removed in police action linked to BCCI investigation

Fraud Office raids Control Securities

By ANGELA MACKAY

OFFICERS from the Serious Fraud Office and the City of London police raided the head office of Control Securities, the property group, and the homes of the three Virani brothers, who manage the company, as part of a wide-ranging investigation into the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. By the end of the day, more than 20 bags of documents, files and two computers had been seized.

Shares in Control Securities were suspended at 1600p just before the market opened, about half an hour after the SFO entered the company's

head office in Victoria. The share price values the company at £60 million, with the Virani brothers speaking for about 15 per cent of the shares. Gerald Ronson's Heron Corp is the biggest shareholder, with 15.9 per cent, while British Airways Pension Fund owns 5.4 per cent.

At 7.40am, 15 police officers, accountants and lawyers attached to the SFO entered Control Securities' head office at Control House in Gillingham Street, SW1. Four more officers arrived later.

At about 7am, the SFO entered a private residence owned by the Viranis in nearby Eccleston Square and removed two bags of documents. They were accompanied by Zul Virani, the chief executive of the company's leisure division.

Nazmu Virani, Control's chairman, who is reputed to be Britain's wealthiest Asian businessman, and his brothers Zul and Silu, expressed surprise at the raids and said they had not been involved in any wrongdoing.

Like many of the Asian business community, the Viranis banked with BCCI. After the bank's failure in July, Control Securities was forced to make provisions of £3.8 million relating to monies held on deposit at the bank and a proportion of the rent on two commercial properties that BCCI occupied.

The matter was complicated by BCCI holding a 5.2 per cent stake in Control in addition to the brothers' private family company, Virani Group UK, losing about £5 million in the collapse.

When the company announced its 1991 results in August, Nazmu Virani was confident the company had dealt with its entire exposure to BCCI and played down the importance of the bank's stake in the company.

The raids are believed to be partly the result of a confidential position paper prepared for the SFO by outside accountants. The document suggests BCCI could have been more closely involved in Control Securities than originally thought. It also raises questions about BCCI's role in certain business deals undertaken by Control over the past two years.

None of the Viranis have been formally questioned by the SFO. However, Nazmu Virani is believed to have cooperated with the investigators in their enquiries.

In a statement, the SFO said the searches had been executed as part of the BCCI enquiry and that "the premises being searched include the offices of the Virani Group UK and Control Securities (both in Control House) and the homes of the Virani



Paper weight: an officer from the Serious Fraud Office removes documents

brothers in order to gather evidence relevant to the enquiry."

Control Securities' shares almost halved after the Bank of England closed BCCI in July, slumping to a low of 35 1/2p after touching a high of 13 1/2p earlier this year. Apart from some concern about the company's exposure to BCCI, small investors sold out of the company to try and raise cash after their funds were frozen in BCCI accounts.

Apart from the BCCI debacle, Control Securities, like most property companies, was suffering from the effects of recession and the accompanying slump in the property market.

The company accounted for this in its 1991 accounts by revaluing its property and

leisure assets; that led to the value of its British properties falling 14 per cent, while net assets dropped 16 per cent to 76p a share.

Consequently, the company produced a pre-tax loss of £3.3 million, compared with a profit of £23.7 million previously, after exceptional charges of £18.2 million affected the group's performance.

Control Securities shares reached an all-time high of 107p in 1987 before the stock market crash in October that year. They never regained those heady levels, but neither did Nazmu Virani lose his reputation as a shrewd deal-maker.

He arrived in Britain in 1972 from Uganda, where Idi

Amin's dictatorship had started to single out the Asian middle classes as an undesirable minority that dominated the country's retail trade.

Mr Virani started his business with one supermarket in 1976 and developed a chain of 17 stores before moving into wholesaling and hotels. He bought into Control Securities in 1985. He was quoted as saying he made his fortune dealing in the "rubbish" none of the larger property companies would touch and managed to contain the group's debt by mostly issuing new shares in Control Securities in exchange for assets.

He arrived in Britain in 1972 from Uganda, where Idi

Rises in earnings steady after revision

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

AVERAGE earnings increases are maintaining their growth at a steady level according to government figures published yesterday. But the constant level of increase was only achieved after an upward revision of last month's figures on earnings growth.

Figures from the employment department showed that the underlying increase in earnings across the whole economy stood at 7.75 per cent in August. Last month, the increase for July was put by the government at 7.5 per cent, and hailed by ministers as the sharpest fall in earnings growth for a decade.

But yesterday's figures revised the July level upwards, to 7.75 per cent, with revisions of a similar order for production, manufacturing and service industries. The revision to the July figures means that the figures for August, which would otherwise have shown an increase, are static.

The employment department said the July revisions were caused by higher than expected bonus payments in August, and by some lump-sum payments to workers.

Independent pay analysts were highly sceptical about the government's revisions. Ministers had hoped that, fuelled by declining pay settlements—last week the Confederation of British Industry said pay deals had fallen to 5.5 from 6.4 per cent—earnings growth would dip below 7.5 per cent for the first time for a decade.

Productivity in manufacturing rose 0.2 per cent in the three months to August, new data showed. Over the period, manufacturing output fell 5.7 per cent, while there was a sharp fall of 5.8 per cent in the employed labour force.

Based on this, unit wage costs in manufacturing rose 7.8 per cent, which officials said was the lowest rate of increase for 13 months. Across the whole economy, productivity fell 1.6 per cent, resulting in unit wage cost increases of 9.5 per cent.

Most pay rises in the third quarter have been higher than the inflation rate, says Income Data Services, the independent pay research group.

Trend assessed, page 25

Taurus postponed until spring 1993

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

PAPERLESS share trading, originally scheduled to have started this month, will not now begin before April 1993, the London Stock Exchange admits.

Peter Rawlins, the exchange's chief executive, said this latest postponement of the Taurus computerised settlement system stemmed from agreement among users that there should be more time for testing. The original estimates of the time needed to develop Taurus's software systems had been too optimistic.

Investors could find themselves paying about £1.2 billion more stamp duty on share deals as a result of the delay. The duty is scheduled for abolition when Taurus comes into operation. The Treasury said, however, that the Chancellor might now review the

US inflation blow to rate cut hopes

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A SURPRISE rise in American inflation during September has dashed hopes of an imminent cut in interest rates, but the weakness of the recovery suggests that an easing cannot be long delayed.

Higher housing, food and energy costs pushed consumer price inflation up 0.4 per cent last month, the biggest monthly increase since January and about twice what Wall Street had expected.

These worrying inflation figures were part of a welter of indicators that gave a mixed picture. Expectations that the Federal Reserve Board would seek to ensure a steady recovery from the recession by easing the monetary reins, were previously encouraged by low inflation. But the September surge, after three months of 0.2 per cent ad-

vances, poured cold water on such hopes, even though the pick-up could be no more than temporary.

Inflation has risen 2.9 per cent in the first nine months, well below the 6.1 per cent increase last year. Figures for industrial production, which have provided an encouraging picture of recovery in recent months, were disappointing, showing only a 0.1 per cent rise in September.

Much of the increase in manufacturing has been going to exports, narrowing the trade deficit. However, yesterday's figures showed exports falling 3 per cent in August, when the trade gap widened 13.6 per cent to \$6.7 billion, the biggest deficit for seven months.

Comment, page 25

Ultramar rejects bold Lasmo bid

By MARTIN BARROW

LASMO, the independent oil and gas exploration company, has launched an audacious £1.17 billion takeover bid for Ultramar, the diversified natural resources group.

After several days of speculation about a bid for Ultramar, involving British Gas and BP, it was Lasmo that yesterday emerged with a one-for-one share exchange offer.

Lasmo proposes to retain Ultramar's upstream interests in the North Sea and Indonesia but to dispose of extensive downstream interests in North America, including two refineries and almost 2,000 petrol stations, as well as shipping interests.

Ultramar dismissed the



Darby: alarmed by fall offer as "unsolicited and unwelcome" and advised shareholders to take no action.

Lasmo's offer is worth 315p for each Ultramar share, against Wednesday's closing price of 277p and compared

with a 12-month high of 355p. Until recent bid speculation provided some support, the shares had underperformed the stock market by 30 per cent. Affected by reported losses of £21 million after tax for the first six months of the current year, the shares slumped to a low of 254p. As a result, Ultramar, one of the original constituents of the FT-SE 100, was removed from the index this summer.

Analysts heaped scorn upon the value of the bid and dismissed it as primarily an opening shot in what is likely to become a protracted battle.

The enlarged group would enjoy production of 209,100 barrels of oil-equivalent a day, compared with Lasmo's cur-

rent output of 93,000 barrels. Chris Greentree, chief executive of Lasmo, said: "The logic of combining our business with Ultramar's upstream interests, both of which are focused in the UK and the Far East, is compelling." He added that Ultramar's current strategy was irrational.

In August, John Darby, the Ultramar chairman, alarmed by the fall in his company's share price, indicated that a strategy review was under way and that disposals of underperforming businesses would be sold, a process that is expected to accelerate in the defence against the bid.

Comment, page 25



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TVS goes back to its bankers

By MARTIN WALLER

AS SHARE prices in some television companies retaining their franchises continued to fall on worries about their future financial health, one of the losers in the franchise round said it was in talks with its bankers over their continued support.

TVS Entertainment reiterated comments, made at the time of the group's proposed £60 million refinancing earlier this year, that failure to retain the right to broadcast to the south and southeast of England could mean a gradual sell-off of the group's assets.

That is the board's preferred strategy as it continues to operate the licence until the end of next year. If the rival Meridian consortium is confirmed in the award of the licence, then the refinancing at TVS will not happen. Discussions will take place with the banks "as a matter of urgency", said a statement.

TVS shares slipped another 3p to 18p. Also falling were Yorkshire, down 22p to 158p, and HTV Group, down 4p to 42p, both thought by analysts to have bid uncomfortably high sums to keep the licence. Granada, also a successful franchise-holder, saw its shares rise by 6p to 190p.

Fisher plans to continue buying spree

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

ALBERT Fisher, the fresh and frozen food distributor, will continue its policy of growth by acquisition despite City fears over its long-term growth potential. Tony Miller, the group's executive chairman, said £42 million was spent last year on three large acquisitions and he would not be surprised if a similar amount were to be spent this year.

He said, however, that he would be reluctant to issue shares at the current price, which fell another 2p to 89p. They have slumped almost 35 per cent in the past seven months. Fisher has £70 million cash on its balance sheet. Mr Miller has appointed Stephen Walls, chief executive of Arjo Wiggins Appleton, and Hugh Ashton as non-executive directors to strengthen the board and improve City sentiment in the wake of Keith Brackpool's departure as chief executive of the American division in March.

Fisher made pre-tax profits of £289 million for the year to

end August, compared with £74.4 million. Turnover rose by 6 per cent to £1.1 billion and earnings per share rose 6 per cent to 10.36p. There was an extraordinary charge of £6.47 million representing the cost of writing off the group's investment in Pacific Agricultural Holdings. The final dividend of 2p makes 3.75p for the year, an increase of 12 per cent.

The market had been expecting higher profits from Fisher but the recession in America, where profits fell from £19.3 million to £18.9 million, and problems at Holco, the European mushroom processing business, depressed results. Overall, the European business made £53.9 million, compared with £49.8 million.

Mr Miller said delayed earnings on the acquisitions made to date would total a maximum of £22 million, payable by the end of 1992, if all the companies met their top profit targets.



Adding strength: Stephen Walls joins Albert Fisher

Ridley 'not irrational' on Fayed's

NICHOLAS Ridley, the former trade secretary, did not act irrationally or unreasonably in refusing to seek disqualification of the Fayed brothers over their conduct during the Harrods takeover battle, Treasury counsel argued in the High Court.

"Dishonesty and deception do not automatically lead to disqualification," said Mr John Laws for Peter Lilley, the present secretary of state. Mr Ridley's decision in March 1990 could not be challenged unless he had acted irrationally or unreasonably.

Laurie is seeking to overturn the then minister's refusal to apply to the courts for a disqualification order against Mohamed, Ali and Salah Fayed, despite publication of an official DTI report that said the Fayed brothers had persistently won approval for their successful £615 million takeover bid for the House of Fraser stores group.

David Oliver, QC, for the Fayed brothers, said: "There is a real difference between honest trading in the ordinary course and the sort of pressures exerted on people in the course of a hostile takeover." The judges will give judgment today.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Bell Lawrie White fined further £75,000

THE Securities and Futures Authority has fined Bell Lawrie White, Scotland's largest stockbroker, £75,000 for breaches of rules after the merger of Robert White and Bell Lawrie in 1989. The broker is part of Hill Samuel, four of whose investment companies were fined a total of £100,000 by the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation in May.

The breaches involved the broker's failure to reconcile accounts within the time specified in rules. The failure, once discovered, was reported to the regulator by the broker. No one lost any money as a result of the breach and the broker has now strengthened its financial controls. The fine included a contribution towards the costs of the disciplinary hearings. Hill Samuel Private Client Management, Hill Samuel Unit Trust Managers, Hill Samuel Investment Services and Hill Samuel Pep Managers had admitted 13 breaches.

Jermyn slips in first half

JERMYN Investment Co reports a decline in pre-tax profits from £155,000 to £105,000 in the half year to end-June. Net property income rose from £46,000 to £70,000, but the company incurred a £19,900 net loss on fixed-asset investments (profit of £78,000). The loss per share is 1.16p (earnings of 3.17p).

Air London lifts payout

AIR London International, the USM-quoted air charter broker, is raising its final dividend to 1.8p (1.4p), making an improved total of 3.2p (2.5p). Pre-tax profits climbed from £23,000 to £1.2 million in the year to end-July, on turnover of £193 million (£134 million). Earnings per share are 8.9p (6.2p).

BTG omits interim

BUSINESS Technology Group, the office equipment company where Tony Berry, the former chairman and chief executive of Blue Arrow, recently took control, has passed its interim dividend (1.5p) after reporting a loss. The pre-tax loss for the six months to end-June is £134,000, against a profit of £985,000 last time. Turnover rose from £23.4 million to £30.4 million. The loss per share is 0.42p (earnings of 4.76p).

Forward cuts losses

FORWARD Technology Industries, the high-tech cleaning to videotape duplication group, has trimmed pre-tax losses from £1.13 million to £635,000 in the six months to end-June. Turnover declined from £19.8 million to £18.6 million. The loss per share is reduced to 1.9p (2p loss). Once again, there is no interim dividend.

Rolls wins \$80m order

AN \$80 million order to supply gas turbine power systems for offshore platforms in the South American oil and gas industry has been won by Cooper Rolls, a joint venture between Rolls-Royce and Cooper Industries of Houston, Texas. Rolls will provide engines and spares worth \$30 million as part of the contract.

Gerrard slightly lower

INTEREST rates and bond yields will continue to fall due to slow money growth and a much weaker economy in 1992 than most expect, says Gerrard & National, the discount house and securities group.

Group profits, not revealed at the half year, were slightly down, the company said. Profits for all of 1990 were 40 per cent up at £12.1 million. Shares fell 10p to 327p from disappointment at a maintained 6p dividend.

H Boot bucks the trend

HENRY Boot & Sons has again bucked the trend in the construction sector with a rise in pre-tax profits to £2.07 million (£1.96 million) in the first half of this year. The interim dividend rises from 7p to 7.5p a share. The shares gained 13p to 688p.

Jamie Boot, the managing director, says the recession continues to affect business and that the hoped-for recovery has yet to happen. The company bought in 190,000 of its own shares at 460p each this year.

Crown pleases

Shares in Crown Eyeglass rose 20p to 190p on better than expected interim results and the announcement of a 2p maiden dividend. Pre-tax profits for the six months to end-September rose from £79,000 to £242,000.

MY in profit

MY Holdings, the board and plastic packaging group, rose to a pre-tax profit of £547,000 in the year to end-August (loss of £2.05 million). A final dividend of 0.5p (nil), makes 0.5p (0.55p).

Brooks cuts

Brooks Service Group has cut its interim dividend to 1.3p (1.84p) after a decline in pre-tax profits from £563,000 to £336,000 in the 26 weeks to June 29.

Pause for Tunnel evidence

A HIGH Court hearing into an application by Eurotunnel to prevent contractors Transmanche Link (TML) from halting work on the Channel tunnel's cooling system was adjourned.

A judge in chambers is understood to have acceded to TML lawyers' request for more time to gather evidence. The hearing is expected to resume next week.

In a joint statement, the parties said TML had agreed to continue work on the cooling system until the full hearing.

The dispute is part of a battle over £810 million of additional claims by the contractor for work on the £620 million lump-sum contract.

TML is a joint venture between five French contracting groups and five British ones: Balfour Beatty, Costain, Taylor Woodrow, Wimpey and Tarmac.

Correction

A REPORT in *The Times* on Wednesday concerning Lancashire & Yorkshire Portfolio Management Limited referred to Stephen Morris, who is associated with that company, as having previously been a director of Blacks Leisure plc. We now understand that this was a different person of the same name, and we apologise to both, and to Blacks Leisure, for any confusion caused.

Japan fears severe economic slowdown

By COLIN NARBOROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

FEARS that Japan could be heading into its worst slowdown since the 1973-4 oil shock have alarmed big corporations and the powerful Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

MITI is concerned that the slowing seen in the latest industrial output data is a factor behind the renewed upward trend in the politically sensitive trade surplus, which hit a record \$9.7 billion last month. Independent economists have long claimed that conditions are right for lowering the Japanese discount rate to reinvigorate domestic demand. But pressure from MITI and big business is unlikely to

prompt Yasushi Mieno, the cautious governor of the Japanese central bank, into hasty easing, especially since the departure of Ryutaro Hashimoto, the finance minister who resigned on Monday over widespread irregularities in Tokyo financial markets.

Kiichi Miyazawa, the former finance minister tipped to succeed Toshiki Kaifu as prime minister of Japan, is expected to exert strong pressure for lower interest rates.

MITI has proposed a discount rate cut as a way to boosting domestic demand, thereby sucking in more imports that would reduce the trade surplus.



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Rawlins takes bull by the horns

COMMENT

Taurus, being an administrative computer system that does not even exist beyond an unfinished book of specifications, is not an animal likely to stir the blood. The latest delay in its introduction, which will now be at least 18 months after the original 1990 schedule, does, however, have damaging tangible consequences.

The City securities industry will have to keep on carrying an estimated £60 million a year of paperwork costs. The London Stock Exchange's reputation suffers, and its ambition to become dominant in the new Europe is further undermined as small continental centres leap ahead. Taurus is unlikely to be in operation for all shares much before the start of 1994.

The possibility of cheap dealing for a mass of small investors has slipped back beyond the horizon and institutional investors face a huge continuing stamp duty bill, unless the Chancellor gives away nearly £1 billion of revenue that he desperately needs.

No wonder Peter Rawlins, the exchange's chief executive, ex-

pressed intense embarrassment after persuading the first meeting of the exchange's new board to agree another timetable. The decision, overdue since the summer, had been held back for the new harder-nosed board.

The development of Taurus has been a disaster for the exchange, showing an amateur approach, especially to the legal framework and complexities such as dividend payments and rights issues. Realism at least has the virtue of trying to avoid any further disasters along the road. The new timetable allows six months to develop the Taurus software after the final design is settled. In response to widespread worries from the main users, much more time is to be allowed for testing, before customers come in.

Even this timetable still depends, however, on changes in the legal framework being agreed that meet the Law Society's important objections. Unless

those changes are small, the final design of the system will not be completed before the end of the year and the whole schedule would have to be put back again.

Lasmo strikes

Ultramar's record has earned it few friends in the City and there have been calls for the head of John Darby, its chairman. However, Lasmo's opening salvo of a one-for-one share exchange, though well-timed, is likely to be laughed out of court.

It is difficult to see how Lasmo could make its bid more attractive to Ultramar's shareholders without detracting from the considerable commercial logic that exists from a merger of the two companies. The 31.5p a share

offer falls far short of analysts' break-up valuations of around 450p after allowing for Ultramar's net debt of £860 million. More Lasmo paper would, however, unacceptably dilute the interest of its existing shareholders, while a cash element would put the enlarged group's balance sheet, already likely to be saddled with 50 per cent gearing before disposals, under additional pressure.

Lasmo is contemptuous of Ultramar's current structure and is confident that it can secure good prices for the refineries and petrol stations in North America. The upstream interests would more than double Lasmo's daily output of oil and gas, and Chris Greenacre, Lasmo chief executive, argues that cash flow benefits would comfortably outweigh higher interest charges.

The real benefit for Lasmo would come through the sale of the two refineries, but other predators would be able to strike equally attractive deals and possibly pass a greater share of the profit to Ultramar shareholders. So, for that matter, could the incumbent board of Ultramar. It has now to address the prospect that the company has little chance of survival in its present form and can concentrate on unlocking shareholder value.

US inflation

The message from Washington has been that inflation is licked and recovery under way. Like Britain, America faces elections next year. The economy must perform appropriately, with no double dip, or resurgent inflation.

Yesterday's batch of indicators confirmed the patchiness of America's recovery, but it also

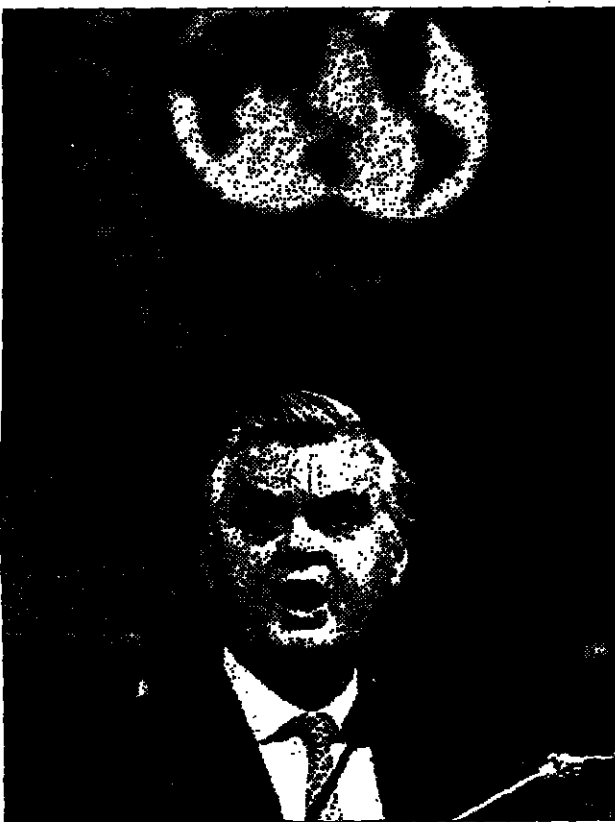
signalled that all is not necessarily well on inflation, with an 0.4 per cent jump in consumer prices in September. This rise, mainly driven by housing and services, was the same as the underlying increase. The question is whether it was just a "blip".

Wayne Angell, the Federal Reserve Board governor, accepted that core inflation, which excludes food and energy prices, was a "disquieting factor", but reaffirmed that policy is on track for zero inflation. Headline inflation has, indeed, slowed impressively over the first nine months. By contrast, the core rate has proved stubborn, having only dropped to 4.8 per cent.

The White House sought to dispel fears that inflation troubles would prevent an easing by the Fed. If the money supply failed to grow faster, and the rebound was not more robust, interest rates would have to be lowered again.

The dilemma for the Fed is that it cannot cut into accelerating inflation, despite its concern about the frail recovery. It must await fresh evidence of weakness.

Lamont keeps looking on the bright side of life



No signs of alarm: the Chancellor in Bangkok

AS NORMAN Lamont stepped off Concorde from Bangkok last night, he must have felt a twinge of bemused irritation. After a week trying to shore up the collapsing Soviet economy and wrestling with the debt burdens of the developing countries, the over-reaction in Britain to every monthly blip in the economic statistics will initially be hard to understand.

To Mr Lamont, who seems to believe quite sincerely that a steady non-inflationary recovery is now under way in Britain, the manic depressive swings of economic opinion in the past few days have been perplexing. Equally puzzling is the speculation about whether he will do anything to boost the economy before the election next year. The fact is that the economic die is already cast. If the Chancellor did not realise this himself, he would be firmly reminded of it by Treasury officials, who would point out that nothing the government can do now would have a significant effect on economic growth, output, or employment in time for the election.

The government simply has to live with what it has got. On the brighter side, however, Mr Lamont's advisers have also been telling him that the beneficial effects of the six interest rates cuts since February are still far from exhausted.

Of course, lower interest rates or cuts in taxes might have political appeal quite separate from their potential macroeconomic impact. But there is no indication that Mr Lamont would think of risking the credibility he has established for sterling in the ERM in the hope of uncertain gains in the opinion polls. Economists outside the Treasury may argue that interest rates are still far too high to allow a sustained recovery in the housing market, or in manufacturing investment. But Mr Lamont seems genuinely to believe in the Treasury's ritual incantation whenever interest rates are mentioned — "We will maintain whatever level of interest rate is compatible with our membership of the exchange-rate mechanism, and with our over-riding goal of reducing inflation." Perhaps Mr Lamont occasionally says something different when he is sleep-talking, but during waking hours he has never indicated that he would prefer faster reductions in interest

rates, even if these could be achieved within the ERM. Indeed, Mr Lamont and the officials around him seem to have few doubts or regrets about the policies they have been following. They are convinced that the recession and the extremely high interest rates that caused it were unavoidable. There simply was no other way to correct the excesses of the preceding borrowing boom, a boom that officials freely admit they underestimated.

The Chancellor seems equally convinced that the economy is now on the right course. Obviously, he would have been delighted by the unexpectedly low unemployment figures yesterday. But

even a few days earlier in Bangkok, at the IMF-World Bank annual meeting, the Chancellor showed no signs of alarm about the sudden fall in August's manufacturing output.

Yesterday, underlining the consistency of their warnings against putting too much faith in a single month's figures, Treasury officials tried to subdue any euphoria about the September unemployment statistics. Looking at the three-month trend in unemployment showed a much smaller improvement than the monthly comparison, a Treasury spokesman noted, although it was "clearly encouraging" that the trend was slowing down. Of course, achieving the

"modest and gradual" recovery that Mr Lamont has been promising all along would not necessarily solve his economic or political problems.

For the government's critics and political opponents, several flaws in the present economic policy are easy to spot. On the purely economic front, the evidence remains mixed on whether Britain's manufacturing industry can cope with the very high real interest rates and the challenging exchange rates that are the centre-piece of Mr Lamont's policy. The truth about Britain's international competitiveness will emerge only gradually.

A more immediate threat to the economy lies in the weakness of the housing market and consumer spending. Even if unemployment starts to stabilise, there is a further threat to consumption that the Chancellor and his officials seem not to recognise, in the sharp deceleration of wage growth.

On the political front, there is the well known problem of lagging public perceptions. To the man in the street, or the small businessman who serves him, a feeble recovery such as the one now on offer might seem indistinguishable from recession for many months.

Mr Lamont and his officials appear undisturbed by any of these hazards. On manufacturing and the exchange rate, the Chancellor's optimism is well known. For manufacturers, the present recession has only been about half as bad as the one of the early Eighties, a record the Treasury views with some satisfaction.

As for the weakness of housing and consumption, this is seen as the mirror image of the last decade's speculative excesses.

But what about politics? The Treasury's long-standing preference for the election to be put off until next year is easy to understand. After all, if Labour is only level pegging with the Conservatives when the economy is still widely thought to be in recession, then it might merely require a small economic improvement for the government to pull into a commanding lead. Of course, elections are not decided by economics any more than economic policies are decided by elections. That, at least, is what chancellors always say they believe.

ANATOLE KALETSKY
Economics Editor

Figuring out unemployment

The rise in people out of work showed signs of a sharp slowdown last month.

Philip Bassett assesses the jobless trend

UNEMPLOYMENT figures usually send shock waves through the economy when they are one of two things: too high, or too low, or rather, when they are above or below expectations. Yesterday's figures from the government on the number out of work in September were spectacularly lower than forecast — and even more mysteriously, there were no real explanations as to why.

Clearly, the trend in the increase in unemployment is moderating. From a peak monthly increase in March this year of 111,200, the figures have for most of the time moved steadily downward. But the increase of 35,700 announced yesterday by Michael Howard, the employment secretary, suggests that the upward trend has slowed dramatically, or perhaps that this single month's figures are an aberrant dip below the trend line.

Usually reliable City forecasters, such as UBS Phillips & Drew, were predicting an increase of up to 60,000. The employment department's own never-published guidance on the trend was suggesting an increase roughly

in line with that — and perhaps significantly, the revised guidance is for a future trend over the coming months of between 45,000 and 50,000. Though lower, this is still well above yesterday's published figure.

Conspiracy theorists, who



Howard: data release

inevitably grow in number as a general election approaches, were yesterday muttering darkly — and strictly in private — that the much lower than expected increase would have been very handily placed for the Conservatives had there been an election only a few weeks away, instead of next spring or summer.

While there is a good deal of evidence on how much ministers might like unemployment and other economic statistics to bounce happily for them — the autobiography of Lord Young, the former employment secretary, for instance, charts his month-by-month extreme interest in the jobless figures, his fervent hope that they might show politically helpful results and the clear refusal of government officials to give such hopes any statistical house-room — there is no evidence of government statisticians being in any way prepared to bend

to any such desires. Coincidentally, the employment department yesterday took the unusual step of publishing a booklet from the department's statisticians answering a range of questions about the unemployment figures, including how they are calculated, what changes have been made to them and whether they are prone to revision.

Some independent unemployment analysts would not be greatly surprised if this time next month, yesterday's seasonally adjusted figure had been revised — upwards. Even employment department officials accept that yesterday's figure could be below trend, and next month's will be higher again.

Not placing too much reliance on any one month's figures in a long-running statistical series such as unemployment is a Treasury standby — and a good one — that clearly applies to yesterday's figures.

But unemployment figures such as these may well add to the anguish of those Conservative party strategists who thought a general election in November the best bet for the government.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Flight to Chelsea

MRS Thatcher still has considerable influence within what was once regarded as her charmed inner circle of friends. At a private dinner, many months ago, she chastised Lord King, the British Airways chairman, for living in an apartment and not a house when in London, even though he retreats to a spectacular stately pile by the name of Warnaby at weekends. Now, it seems, he has finally followed her advice. King is now to be heard complaining loudly about his imminent move. That move will take him from Eaton Square to Elm Park Gardens, in Chelsea, much to the delight of his wife Isabel, daughter of the 8th Viscount Galway, since it has, of course, a garden. But King, aged 74, known for his wry sense of humour — "they tell me it does at least have an 071 number" — reveals that he has already, rather darkly, dubbed the new abode "the widow's

house". His wife is, he explains, 11 years his junior.

Wheel deal

WHILE personnel from the Serious Fraud Office were beavering away inside Control Securities headquarters, in Gillingham Street, Victoria, law enforcement officers of a different kind clamped the SFO's white transit van and one of its Vauxhall cars outside. But before the clamps could drive off, amused

reporters, gathered on the pavement, told the nearest SFO employee, who hurriedly produced evidence of the vehicles' bona fides. The disgruntled officers removed the clamps but not before complaining that what they really needed was an authority that was "typed, not written by bloody hand".

Graffiti at King's Cross railway station: "BR wishes to announce a delay in its answer to the Citizen's Charter."

Joking aside

ALTHOUGH the concept of a straight sale, as opposed to a management buyout, now seems to be the way ahead for Hoare Govett, the UK stockbroking division of Security Pacific, two of the firm's directors, Peter Meinertzhagen and Robert Whitaker, were nevertheless prepared to bid against each other for the business at a charity auction on Wednesday. Meinertzhagen was yesterday gallantly claiming that he would have gone the highest — up to £20

million — in order to stop it falling into alien hands, but Martin Pope, the auctioneer, a utilities market maker also with Hoare, wisely brought to a halt by refusing to actually accept any bids on the joke item. "There were hands up everywhere," he says. The auction, part of a race evening organised by The October Club, a popular City charity, nevertheless helped to raise a total of £120,000, against a target of £75,000. This year's beneficiary was The Motor Neurone Disease Association and its patron, the Duchess of York, was in attendance. Meanwhile, by way of a riposte to Meinertzhagen, Whitaker says he bid the highest for the firm, since he ended up actually buying the joke item. Thanks to clever sleight of hand by Pope it turned out to be not Hoare Govett but a copy of the Duchess's book, *Victoria & Albert: Life at Osborne House*. "I think I paid £3,000 for it," he mutters.

CAROL LEONARD



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BUSINESS LETTERS

Double standards in European airline orders

From Mr M. Walton
Sir, I read the article (Business & Finance) regarding Airbus Industrie's request for the European Commissioner to investigate British Airways' (BA) aircraft purchasing policy with interest.

Perhaps Jean Pierson should also request the Commissioner to investigate the engine selection policy of the major "state" owned European airlines, none of which - Iberia and TAP excluded - have ever pur-

chased a Rolls-Royce (R-R) RB211 or Trent engine.

Irrespective of one's opinion of BA's decision to purchase GE90 powered Boeing 777s rather than the Airbus A330 or R-R Trent engine, in my opinion, it certainly was not in the best interest of R-R, one has to accept that BA made the choice.

Would Air France, Lufthansa or Alitalia be allowed to select R-R engines? I think not, one suspects that they are directed to purchase US

manufactured engines in which their own indigenous engine companies are partners.

A case of British airlines must support European designed and built aircraft, but European airlines need not support wholly European designed and built engines.

Yours faithfully,
M. WALTON,
3 Harwood Drive,
Swallow Green,
Hinckley,
Leicestershire.

Profit priority

From Mr B. Warnes
Sir, Thank you for a fascinating article about David James on Saturday, October 5.

One's main reaction is what a pity the skills of people like David James cannot be used on already-profitable companies, to enhance their performance. Many of our more important companies, particularly engineering companies, make miserable returns on sales, 5 per cent or so.

As a result they often have wholly inadequate plough-back in R&D and capital investment which is currently a source of much concern.

Those, on the other hand, that start making 15 per cent or more have no such problems; and there are now fairly standard ways of achieving it. Have we got our priorities right?

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN WARNES,
Managing Director,
Business Dynamics Ltd,
13 Blackheath Village, SE3.

Interest rates: cause or cure?

From Emeritus Professor David Bell

Sir, In your article on the ERM with charts showing international comparisons of inflation and unemployment (October 8) it would have been instructive to include interest rates.

Putting in a few values of UK interest on the "inflation" chart shows that there is a noticeable resemblance between the variations of interest and inflation in the UK, which the Chancellor might say is inevitable because high interest is the main element in "the fight against inflation".

But since the steep rise in inflation (approximately from the first to third quarters of 1990) came after the rise in interest in 1989 it is possible that high interest caused inflation by encouraging large wage claims and increasing all costs of production and distribution (Business Letters, March 1990). Later (report, May 30

1991) the NIESR has expressed concern about the long-term effect of high interest.

"The fight against inflation" is a good political slogan, but is it not time to consider the down-side of high interest?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BELL,
87 East End,
Wallingford,
Beverly,
Humberside.

FT-SE 100 VOLUMES

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
Abbey Nat 2,434	Cadbury 1,008	Lloyds 487	Royal Bank 747	
Adia-Lyons 2,327	CU 728	Lucas 500	Sainsbury 685	
Anglia 182	Courtauld 1,299	M&S 7,894	Sellars 1,797	
ASDA 9,841	Enterprise 2,291	Menzies 240	Soot & N 1,797	
AS Foods 151	Eurotunnel 1,206	MEPC 205	Soot Power 6,354	
Argyll 3,289	Fisons 5,655	Midland 2,559	Sears 6,750	
Arjo Wiggins 412	Forbes 782	Nat West 3,495	Shell 2,125	
BAA 487	Gen Acc 840	Nat Power 1,271	Shell & N 4,928	
BET 581	GEC 2,280	N W Water 429	SK Beech 1,567	
BTR 1,478	Glaxo 1,278	Nirn Foods 1,089	Sun Alliance 1,250	
BAT 1,480	Grand Met 1,050	P&O 1,271	Tarmac 942	
Barclays 5,148	GLS 'A' 230	Pearson 50	Tate Lyle 1,143	
Bass 328	GPI 1,734	Pfizer 1,134	TBS 1,451	
BIOC 1,017	Guinness 1,179	PowerGen 1,035	Thames Wtr 242	
Birchcliff 1,022	Hanson 6,659	Prudential 2,475	Thorn EMI 318	
Blue Circle 94	Hawker 1,400	RAC 749	Trafalgar 2,827	
BOC 1,003	Hilldown 788	R&C 250	Unilever 3,474	
Boots 846	ICI 1,352	Reid 749	United Btl 1,003	
Br A&P 1,286	Inchcape 677	Renold 28	Vodafone 1,803	
Br Airways 7,886	Kingfisher 1,525	Rentokil 28	Whitbread 348	
Br Gas 6,028	Ladbro's 5,533	Reaumur 658	Williams 882	
Br Petrol 6,454	Ladbro's 1,182	Reaumur 658	Wills Cor 1,557	
Br Steel 975	Land Sec 673	RTZ 1,313		
Br Telecom 4,932	L&L 180	Royce 1,555		
C&W 1,249	Lloyds 4,082	Rochemans 'B' 27		

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES	Flaming Emerg Mkt	102 +1/2	Vtech Hlds	83
Aberforth Split (100p)	Gartmore Inc (100p)	113	See main prices page for Electricity shares	
Adam & Harvey	Gartmore Cap (100p)	103 +1		
Adrian & Co	General Inc (100p)	103 +1		
18-1	Greenacre	283 +5		
85	Headline Book (100p)	145		
189	Headline High Inc	112		
111	Lowndes Lambert (200p)	336 -2		
103	Mancheater Ltd (85p)	292		
5	Mancheater Ltd (85p)	292		
102	Mancheater Ltd (85p)	292		
88	Mancheater Ltd (85p)	292		
65	Mancheater Ltd (85p)	292		
70	Mancheater Ltd (85p)	292		

Trail blazer

From Mr P. Kafka

Sir, I hope you do not mind my writing to correct one point in Philip Bassett's excellent piece on Roosecote Power Station on Monday, October 7. Mr Bassett writes, "Manweb, the Manchester based company, has taken a 20 per cent equity stake in the new station." I think both Norweb and Norweb's share-

holders would be grateful if it was made clear that Manweb, which is based in Chester, has no connection whatsoever with Roosecote Power Station.

Norweb, the Manchester based electricity company, is a 20 per cent shareholder in Lakeland Power, which owns and runs the power station. Norweb is thus a pioneer in two senses; it was the first Regional Electricity Company

to take a stake in an independent power station, and the first to sign a 15 year offtake contract which, as Mr Bassett pointed out, was the final crucial piece in the jigsaw puzzle which brought the project to its successful completion.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL KAFKA,
Head of Corporate Affairs,
Norweb,
Talbot Road, Manchester.

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Kevin Eason asks why a life-saver firm as standard to British cars made for the United States is out of UK mode

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Great Palm to console Cole team

THE disappointment felt at Whatcombe by the failure of Gentle to win the Arc and then his subsequent retirement earlier this week will be partially offset if his younger stable companion Great Palm wins the Three Chimneys Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket today, as well he may.

While Gentle sprang a surprise in the same race last year by winning at 50-1, a victory for the unbeaten Great Palm would not be a bolt from the blue.

Confidence in his ability to beat the likes of Dr Devious, Pursuit Of Love, Young Senior and Zaahi can be measured by the decision to rely upon him instead of Magic Ring, even after the subsequent winner of last Saturday's Connorsville Stakes had been entered for today's race at the late and expensive supplementary stage.

Great Palm has raced just the once, in the Connorsville Stakes at York in August, which he won with a considerable degree of aplomb. In the meantime Wesam, the horse he beat that day, has won and been second.

As for Great Palm, he has clearly delighted trainer Paul Cole as his preparation for today's examination has gained momentum.

It is almost impossible to split Young Senior and Dr Devious on their running at the last Newmarket meeting.

On that occasion only a head divided them as they headed towards the line at the end of the Tattersalls Highflyer Stakes, run over today's distance.

The following day, Pursuit Of Love was an impressive winner of a maiden race, run over the same course and distance but in a fractionally

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slow time.

Like Great Palm, Zaahi enters the fray having won his only race with the reputation of being Tom Jones's best two-year-old colt. While there was certainly much to admire about the way that he stormed home at Sandown, I still prefer Great Palm.

After impressing at Salisbury first time, Thourous was a huge disappointment at Goodwood when he was backed down to favouriteism to out to redeem himself.

No matter how they fare in the main race with Zaahi, Tom Jones and Richard Hills can leave the course content with having won the group three Rockfel Stakes for

Sheikh Hamdan Al-Maktoum with Mathayal.

On her debut at Ascot this daughter of Shaded was beaten only half-length by the more experienced Misterioso, who has subsequently injected considerable substance into that form by beating the consistent Prince Ferdinand at York last Saturday.

While obviously respecting the claims of Misterioso who is unbeaten, I feel that she could find the task of conceding 3lb to Mathayal beyond her.

Mystery Play is dropped in distance after being promoted to second place in the Brent Walker Fillies' Mile at Ascot. As far as the Baring International Darley Stakes is concerned, it should pay to follow Gosden's peak-form stable.

She looked desperately unlucky not to win a group three

race at Goodwood a fortnight ago.

Today's meeting can begin with Green Desert's younger sister Youssefa winning the EBF Travis Perkins Maiden Stakes following that promising run in fifth place behind Skimble 13 days ago.

Satin Lover, who has won his last two races by a combined total of 17 lengths, is now mapped to win the Park Paddocks Handicap and thus complete a treble since joining Reg Akehurst's successful Epsom stable.

At Catterick, Mountain Ash (2.45) can draw further attention to the chance that Peasegreen Prince has of winning the Tattersalls Nursery at Newmarket. Only a short head divided them at Lingfield last time.

Blindered first time
Catterick, 2.45: 3.30 Goal Gold, 3.40 Goal Gold.

Selkirk out for season after straining joint

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

SELKIRK, arguably Europe's top miler following his victory in the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot, will miss the Breeders' Cup Mile due to injury.

A minor strain to a near fore joint, almost certainly incurred during a spin on the Kingsclere gallops on Wednesday, came to light after the horse travelled to Newmarket for yesterday's Challenge Stakes.

Ian Balding withdrew the Sharpen Up colt after discovering the setback before the race. "It has been diagnosed as, not being a serious injury, he will have four to five days being rested before being allowed to walk, so he is definitely finished for the season."

"He stays as training next season so we can always have a go for the Breeders' Cup then."

The setback will be a severe disappointment for George Stables, the colt's American owner, who had flown over from Pennsylvania after missing the Ascot triumph.

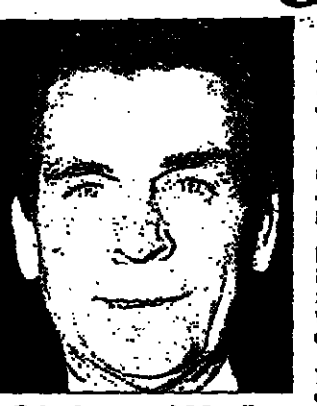
Selkirk's absence did not prevent the Challenge Stakes from being a thrilling contest as Mystiko returned to the form which saw him win the 2,000 Guineas in May.

Britain's trail-blazer made all the running and had his six rivals hard at work two furlongs from home, before running out a comfortably two-length winner from Only Yours.

"I know he was back to his best. He has been more relaxed in his work. He has been working like he was in the spring and on that form I could not see him being beaten," the trainer said.

After winning the Ladbrokes European Free Handicap and the 2,000 Guineas, Mystiko was asked for the Derby. Asked if that had been a mistake, Brittain came up with a memorable quote. "When you make a decision it is not a mistake. A man who never made a decision never made anything."

Mystiko will not travel to Churchill Downs for the Breeders' Cup but stays in training next year together with Terimon.



Brittain: coaxed Mystiko back to winning form

"He is finished for the season now. We have got a cracking horse from six furlongs to a mile for next year and can always go to the Breeders' Cup then."

With the wind blowing faster than any horse could run, it was no surprise that the seven-furlong course record was lowered by Mystiko.

The record time for seven furlongs on the Rowley course lasted only 30 minutes as the seven-furlong record was lowered by Mystiko.

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The record time for seven furlongs on the Rowley course lasted only 30 minutes as the seven-furlong record was lowered by Mystiko.

Churchill Downs in order to provide fast going for Second Set, who is now likely to head Britain's challenge in the Breeders' Cup Mile.

He reported his Sussex Stakes winner to be "extremely well" and provided the going is suitably fast "we will be there with a good chance."

Geoff Lewis is placing his horse in the 2,000 Guineas bookmakers for training 40 winners this year. But even he cannot get everything right.

The Epsom handler thought Lady Sabo offered the best chance of adding to his tally in the opening Buckingham Stakes, but could only finish third behind William Pearce's Toshiba Comet Star, who was subsequently sold for £15,500.

However, Lewis did not have to wait long for his 38th winner as Don't Leave Me finished like the proverbial wind to snatch victory in the A R Dennis Bookmakers Nursery. At the furlong mark, Lewis' horse, blinkered for the first time, looked assured of victory as he held a lead of at least four lengths. But Don't Leave Me came home as though he knew about the pay-out in store for the Epsom yard if the 40 winners are achieved.

Just how much Mill Reef's former jockey and friends will collect is unclear, but it is at least £100,000.

□ The timescale for supplementary entries in group one races is now the reverse. Instead of the supplementary stage being on the Tuesday prior to the week of the race, it will now be six days before the race, apart from Saturdays when it will be seven days.

Doubt over Desert Sun

THE Dubai Champion Stakes, already weakened by the defection of dual Derby winner Generoso, could lose another top contender in Desert Sun.

Heavy Cecil's colt is suffering from a leg problem and is rated a doubtful starter for tomorrow's group one contest at Newmarket.

"His leg has burst up and he is only 50-50 to make the race," Cecil said. "We have blood-tested him and will wait for the results in Dubai before a final decision is made."

Ladbrokes have deleted Desert Sun from their lists and now list: 4-1 In The Groove, 6-1 Ristina, 7-1 Marjo, 8-1 Bar.

MANDARIN	THUNDERER	RICHARD EVANS
2.00 Youssefa	2.00 Youssefa	3.40 GREAT PALM
2.35 Sussurration	2.35 Sussurration	4.15 Don't Smile
3.05 Mathayal	3.05 Mystery Play	4.50 Balletemme
3.40 Young Senior	4.15 SOVEREIGN ROCK	
4.50 SATIN LOVER		
5.15 Noble Singer	5.15 Noble Singer	

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.35 Sussurration, 3.40 Zaahi.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.35 Sussurration.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

2.00 EBF TRAVIS PERKINS MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £5,700: 6f) (14 runners)

101 (6)	04 ABIGAIL BOY 17 (J. J. Jones) 9-0	B. Crossley	78
102 (6)	AL SAIDI (M. O'Brien) 8-0	M. Roberts	
103 (6)	AL SAIDI (M. O'Brien) 8-0	M. Roberts	
104 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
105 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
106 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
107 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
108 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
109 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
110 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
111 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
112 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
113 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
114 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
115 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	

BETTING: 2-1 Youssefa, 3-1 Young Senior, 4-1 Satin Lover, 5-1 Noble Singer, 6-1 Mystery Play, 7-1 Don't Smile, 8-1 Balletemme, 9-1 Mystery Play, 10-1 Noble Singer, 11-1 Mystery Play, 12-1 Noble Singer, 13-1 Mystery Play, 14-1 Noble Singer.

1990: CHIMAYO 8-0 L. Piggott (9-1) B. Hills 11 m.

2.35 BARING INTERNATIONAL DARLEY STAKES (2-Y-O: £11,000: 1m 10f) (11 runners)

101 (6)	04 ABIGAIL BOY 17 (J. J. Jones) 9-0	B. Crossley	78
102 (6)	AL SAIDI (M. O'Brien) 8-0	M. Roberts	
103 (6)	AL SAIDI (M. O'Brien) 8-0	M. Roberts	
104 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
105 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
106 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
107 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
108 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
109 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
110 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
111 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	

BETTING: 2-1 Youssefa, 3-1 Young Senior, 4-1 Satin Lover, 5-1 Noble Singer, 6-1 Mystery Play, 7-1 Don't Smile, 8-1 Balletemme, 9-1 Mystery Play, 10-1 Noble Singer, 11-1 Mystery Play.

1990: RAJ WANG 8-0 L. O'Brien (8-1) B. Hills 14 m.

3.05 ROCKFEL STAKES (Group 1: 2-Y-O: £20,000: 7f) (6 runners)

101 (6)	04 ABIGAIL BOY 17 (J. J. Jones) 9-0	B. Crossley	78
102 (6)	AL SAIDI (M. O'Brien) 8-0	M. Roberts	
103 (6)	AL SAIDI (M. O'Brien) 8-0	M. Roberts	
104 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
105 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
106 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	

BETTING: 2-1 Youssefa, 3-1 Young Senior, 4-1 Satin Lover, 5-1 Noble Singer, 6-1 Mystery Play, 7-1 Don't Smile, 8-1 Balletemme, 9-1 Mystery Play, 10-1 Noble Singer, 11-1 Mystery Play.

1990: CRYSTAL GAZING 8-1 L. Dettori (8-1) L. Cornall 6 m.

3.55 ZETLAND MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,667: 7f) (12 runners)

101 (6)	04 ABIGAIL BOY 17 (J. J. Jones) 9-0	B. Crossley	78
102 (6)	AL SAIDI (M. O'Brien) 8-0	M. Roberts	
103 (6)	AL SAIDI (M. O'Brien) 8-0	M. Roberts	
104 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
105 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
106 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	

BETTING: 2-1 Youssefa, 3-1 Young Senior, 4-1 Satin Lover, 5-1 Noble Singer, 6-1 Mystery Play, 7-1 Don't Smile, 8-1 Balletemme, 9-1 Mystery Play, 10-1 Noble Singer, 11-1 Mystery Play.

1990: PLATON 3-8 L. O'Brien (8-1) T. Barron 14 m.

4.30 HORNSBY CASTLE CLAIMING STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,667: 5f 212y) (13 runners)

101 (6)	04 ABIGAIL BOY 17 (J. J. Jones) 9-0	B. Crossley	78
102 (6)	AL SAIDI (M. O'Brien) 8-0	M. Roberts	
103 (6)	AL SAIDI (M. O'Brien) 8-0	M. Roberts	
104 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
105 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
106 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	

BETTING: 2-1 Youssefa, 3-1 Young Senior, 4-1 Satin Lover, 5-1 Noble Singer, 6-1 Mystery Play, 7-1 Don't Smile, 8-1 Balletemme, 9-1 Mystery Play, 10-1 Noble Singer, 11-1 Mystery Play.

1990: TIME FOR THE BLUES 8-13 L. O'Brien (8-1) J. Barry 8 m.

5.00 FAVERDALE HANDICAP (2.55: 5f) (17 runners)

101 (6)	04 ABIGAIL BOY 17 (J. J. Jones) 9-0	B. Crossley	78
102 (6)	AL SAIDI (M. O'Brien) 8-0	M. Roberts	
103 (6)	AL SAIDI (M. O'Brien) 8-0	M. Roberts	
104 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
105 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
106 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	

BETTING: 2-1 Youssefa, 3-1 Young Senior, 4-1 Satin Lover, 5-1 Noble Singer, 6-1 Mystery Play, 7-1 Don't Smile, 8-1 Balletemme, 9-1 Mystery Play, 10-1 Noble Singer, 11-1 Mystery Play.

1990: BRAVE MELODY 4-78 G. Barwick (12-1) J. H. Wilson 20 m.

5.15 NEWMARKET CHALLENGE CUP (No penalty value: 2-Y-O: 7f) (2 runners)

101 (6)	04 ABIGAIL BOY 17 (J. J. Jones) 9-0	B. Crossley	78
102 (6)	AL SAIDI (M. O'Brien) 8-0	M. Roberts	

BETTING: 2-1 Youssefa, 3-1 Young Senior, 4-1 Satin Lover, 5-1 Noble Singer, 6-1 Mystery Play, 7-1 Don't Smile, 8-1 Balletemme, 9-1 Mystery Play, 10-1 Noble Singer, 11-1 Mystery Play.

1990: PLATON 3-8 L. O'Brien (8-1) T. Barron 14 m.

5.45 PARK PADDOCKS HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £5,000: 1m 8f) (10 runners)

101 (6)	04 ABIGAIL BOY 17 (J. J. Jones) 9-0	B. Crossley	78
102 (6)	AL SAIDI (M. O'Brien) 8-0	M. Roberts	
103 (6)	AL SAIDI (M. O'Brien) 8-0	M. Roberts	
104 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
105 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
106 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	

BETTING: 2-1 Youssefa, 3-1 Young Senior, 4-1 Satin Lover, 5-1 Noble Singer, 6-1 Mystery Play, 7-1 Don't Smile, 8-1 Balletemme, 9-1 Mystery Play, 10-1 Noble Singer, 11-1 Mystery Play.

1990: PLATON 3-8 L. O'Brien (8-1) T. Barron 14 m.

6.00 WOODLAND RISE (2-Y-O: £2,667: 5f 212y) (13 runners)

101 (6)	04 ABIGAIL BOY 17 (J. J. Jones) 9-0	B. Crossley	78
102 (6)	AL SAIDI (M. O'Brien) 8-0	M. Roberts	
103 (6)	AL SAIDI (M. O'Brien) 8-0	M. Roberts	
104 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
105 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
106 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	

BETTING: 2-1 Youssefa, 3-1 Young Senior, 4-1 Satin Lover, 5-1 Noble Singer, 6-1 Mystery Play, 7-1 Don't Smile, 8-1 Balletemme, 9-1 Mystery Play, 10-1 Noble Singer, 11-1 Mystery Play.

1990: PLATON 3-8 L. O'Brien (8-1) T. Barron 14 m.

6.30 BRETANBY HANDICAP (2.55: 5f) (16 runners)

101 (6)	04 ABIGAIL BOY 17 (J. J. Jones) 9-0	B. Crossley	78
102 (6)	AL SAIDI (M. O'Brien) 8-0	M. Roberts	
103 (6)	AL SAIDI (M. O'Brien) 8-0	M. Roberts	
104 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
105 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
106 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	

BETTING: 2-1 Youssefa, 3-1 Young Senior, 4-1 Satin Lover, 5-1 Noble Singer, 6-1 Mystery Play, 7-1 Don't Smile, 8-1 Balletemme, 9-1 Mystery Play, 10-1 Noble Singer, 11-1 Mystery Play.

1990: PLATON 3-8 L. O'Brien (8-1) T. Barron 14 m.

6.45 BRETANBY HANDICAP (2.55: 5f) (16 runners)

101 (6)	04 ABIGAIL BOY 17 (J. J. Jones) 9-0	B. Crossley	78
102 (6)	AL SAIDI (M. O'Brien) 8-0	M. Roberts	
103 (6)	AL SAIDI (M. O'Brien) 8-0	M. Roberts	
104 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
105 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
106 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	

BETTING: 2-1 Youssefa, 3-1 Young Senior, 4-1 Satin Lover, 5-1 Noble Singer, 6-1 Mystery Play, 7-1 Don't Smile, 8-1 Balletemme, 9-1 Mystery Play, 10-1 Noble Singer, 11-1 Mystery Play.

1990: PLATON 3-8 L. O'Brien (8-1) T. Barron 14 m.

6.55 BRETANBY HANDICAP (2.55: 5f) (16 runners)

101 (6)	04 ABIGAIL BOY 17 (J. J. Jones) 9-0	B. Crossley	78
102 (6)	AL SAIDI (M. O'Brien) 8-0	M. Roberts	
103 (6)	AL SAIDI (M. O'Brien) 8-0	M. Roberts	
104 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
105 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
106 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	

BETTING: 2-1 Youssefa, 3-1 Young Senior, 4-1 Satin Lover, 5-1 Noble Singer, 6-1 Mystery Play, 7-1 Don't Smile, 8-1 Balletemme, 9-1 Mystery Play, 10-1 Noble Singer, 11-1 Mystery Play.

1990: PLATON 3-8 L. O'Brien (8-1) T. Barron 14 m.

3.40 THREE CHIMNEYS DEWHURST STAKES (Group 1: 2-Y-O: £130,195: 7f) (8 runners)

101 (6)	04 ABIGAIL BOY 17 (J. J. Jones) 9-0	B. Crossley	78
102 (6)	AL SAIDI (M. O'Brien) 8-0	M. Roberts	
103 (6)	AL SAIDI (M. O'Brien) 8-0	M. Roberts	
104 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
105 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
106 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	

BETTING: 2-1 Youssefa, 3-1 Young Senior, 4-1 Satin Lover, 5-1 Noble Singer, 6-1 Mystery Play, 7-1 Don't Smile, 8-1 Balletemme, 9-1 Mystery Play, 10-1 Noble Singer, 11-1 Mystery Play.

1990: CHIMAYO 8-0 L. Piggott (9-1) B. Hills 11 m.

4.15 TATTERSALLS SALES NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £11,257: 6f) (12 runners)

101 (6)	04 ABIGAIL BOY 17 (J. J. Jones) 9-0	B. Crossley	78
102 (6)	AL SAIDI (M. O'Brien) 8-0	M. Roberts	
103 (6)	AL SAIDI (M. O'Brien) 8-0	M. Roberts	
104 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
105 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
106 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	

BETTING: 2-1 Youssefa, 3-1 Young Senior, 4-1 Satin Lover, 5-1 Noble Singer, 6-1 Mystery Play, 7-1 Don't Smile, 8-1 Balletemme, 9-1 Mystery Play, 10-1 Noble Singer, 11-1 Mystery Play.

1990: CHIMAYO 8-0 L. Piggott (9-1) B. Hills 11 m.

4.45 TATTERSALLS SALES NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £11,257: 6f) (12 runners)

101 (6)	04 ABIGAIL BOY 17 (J. J. Jones) 9-0	B. Crossley	78
102 (6)	AL SAIDI (M. O'Brien) 8-0	M. Roberts	
103 (6)	AL SAIDI (M. O'Brien) 8-0	M. Roberts	
104 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
105 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	
106 (6)	CLASH OF COURAGE (A. Smeaton) 8-0	J. Williams	

BET

Richardson falls at first hurdle in the World Match Play championship

Montgomerie opens in style

By MITCHELL PLATT
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

COLIN Montgomerie will meet Nick Faldo in the quarter-finals of the Toyota World Match Play championship after he overcame Mark Calveocchia 5 and 4 yesterday on the West Course at Wentworth.

The Scot, who is on the threshold of becoming a standard-bearer for British golf over the next ten years, knows his match against Faldo will give the nation more evidence of which to judge his progress, yet he will tee-off against Faldo, twice winner of the Open and twice the Masters champion, convinced that his attitude has improved so much in the last 12 months that he can win a place in the last four.

"A year ago, I would have been frightened about playing Faldo," Montgomerie said yesterday. "But now, I've tested my game at the highest level in the last year, although I know I will need to hole-out well to beat Nick."

Montgomerie did putt well against Calveocchia. He holed from 13 feet at the 2nd hole in the afternoon for a birdie to stop the American going ahead and two-putted the 18th from 25 feet while his opponent missed from six.

Montgomerie, two holes up at the lunch interval, won six holes out of seven from the third (21st) in the afternoon before a late rally by Calveocchia reduced the Scot's winning margin to 5 and 4.

Calveocchia, without a tournament win since the Open in 1989, said: "I'm not sure that I deserved to be here. Tough day? It's been a tough year. It's no secret I've not



Sand blaster: Richardson attempts to play his way out of trouble during his first-round defeat at Wentworth

played well. I was just happy to be invited."

The howling wind, gusting up to 40mph, made scoring difficult, although neither Calveocchia or Tom Purtzer, who lost to his American compatriot, Billy Andrade, can feel happy with the way they played. Purtzer, like Calveocchia, took 42 strokes to play the outward half in the afternoon, which is where he

lost his chance. Andrade, who eventually won 3 and 2, will now play Ian Woosnam, the defending champion.

"I don't feel under any pressure," Andrade said. "I've nothing to be afraid of because the odds are all in Ian's favour. But I watched Ian in the Ryder Cup and he didn't seem to have the putter going."

Steve Richardson's hopes of

a prolonged run ended when he was beaten 5 and 3 by Nick Price. Even so, Price produced easily the best golf of the first round and he was six under par for the six par fives he played.

It was at the long fourth, in the afternoon, where Price virtually condemned Richardson to a premature departure. There he hit a superb four iron to within nine feet from where

he holed for an eagle three. It took him four up and the gallant Richardson could not respond.

Fred Couples became the second American to reach the quarter-finals when he moved past Joe Ozzaki 4 and 3. He will now play Severiano Ballesteros today. "I hit some bad shots but I hung in," Couples said. "I'm looking forward to playing Seve."

HOLE-BY-HOLE GUIDE TO THE FIRST ROUND AT WENTWORTH																																					
West Course, Wentworth: Par 72 (6,945 yards); Outward nine – 36 (3,361 yards); Inward nine – 36 (3,584 yards)																																					
Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	Result
Yards	471	155	452	501	191	344	399	388	450	185	378	483	441	179	486	380	571	512	471	155	452	501	191	344	399	388	450	186	378	483	441	179	486	380	571	512	
Par	4	3	4	5	3	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	4	5	4	3	4	5	3	4	4	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	4	5	5		
T. Purtzer (US) (R)	5	3	5	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	5	5	5	3	3	4	4	4	4	2	5	3	3	4	5	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	
W. Andrade (US)	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3 and 2	
F. Couples (US) (R)	4	3	3	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	5	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4 and 3	
N. Ozaki (Japan)	4	3	4	5	3	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4		
M. Calveocchia (US) (R)	5	2	5	4	3	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4		
C. Montgomerie (Scott)	4	3	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5 and 4	
N. Price (Zim) (R)	4	3	5	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4		
S. Richardson (Eng)	4	3	5	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5 and 3	

Birdies from Edwards keep the lead intact

By JOHN HENNESSY

SPENCER Edwards, a young Kings Norton golfer, surpassed even his first round performance when he won the four-ball championship continued at East Sussex National.

On Wednesday, he had rattled in four birdies at the side of his more experienced partner, Mike Deeley, of Maidstock. Yesterday he recorded six, five of them in a purple passage of six holes. Only the third escaped, and even then his putt from 25ft tipped the hole. Otherwise it was an inconsistent round for both partners, who emerged with 69, three under par and a stroke more than the day before.

Their total of 137 was four better than Simon Stratton and Christopher Harries, both from

the Scraptoft Club in Leicestershire. After the leaders had dropped two shots in their first four holes, it required an outrageous putt, more than a cricket pitch in length over a ridge, to bring in their first birdie, from Donley at the 14th.

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Time, gentlemen, to forget the phoney war



Camberbero: absentee

LAST Saturday afternoon — a Saturday in the middle of the rugby season, remember — I enjoyed a pub lunch in the autumn sunshine on the island of Jersey before wandering around the shops of St Helier. This Saturday afternoon, at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris, I expect to be involved in one of the toughest mental and physical tests I have experienced in my career. The contrast with browsing around shops seven days earlier could not be greater.

France versus England in the World Cup quarter-finals, just like the three other matches at this stage of the tournament, marks the end of the phoney war. Not that I seek to cast aspersions as to the quality of the opposition we have met so far. Not at all. But from this day on, there can be no lapses.

When we played New Zealand in our opening pool match, we knew that, even in defeat, we could still reach the final. That safeguard is no longer available to us; the feeling in the camp is, this is the real thing.

We know that we are going to have to improve significantly to beat France. Our first aim in the World Cup was to qualify for the later stages, and that we have done without playing particularly well.

We were disappointed against the United States in our final pool match, partly because eight of the players in our side had not played for three or four weeks and, given one chance to impress, those players were trying so hard to make an impact. It all affected our teamwork and pattern.

However, the Americans were no mugs. And perhaps the perfor-



Rob Andrew, the England stand-off half, relishes the prospect of playing France at Parc des Princes in the Rugby World Cup

mance of Italy in restricting New Zealand to a 31-21 victory put into perspective our own win against the Italians. This World Cup has shown that there is now nobody you can take for granted on the international stage.

Italy were thrashed by New Zealand in the 1987 World Cup and we, too, had some easy wins four years ago. But standards have risen steeply since then and every side poses problems.

We enjoyed our break in Jersey; it was just what we wanted. But the moment we stepped off the

plane in Paris on Monday, you could sense everybody was raring to go. The training session which followed was certainly tough — though reports of brawls between some of our players were, like those of Mark Twain's death, greatly exaggerated.

We have looked sharper in training this week and have had to step up a few gears. Now, we look forward to playing at the Parc des Princes. Ask the Scots, who have never won there, what they think of the place and you can anticipate their reply.

I have very happy memories of the place. We enjoy playing there, for it always has a great atmosphere. Partisan yes, but not hostile, in my experience. We won splendidly there, 26-7 last year, lost 10-9 in 1988, when we should have won comfortably; and got hammered in 1986. In 1989, I led the British Isles to victory over France on the ground.

We regard France's loss of their stand-off half, Didier Camberbero, as a significant blow. France have improved since 1990, when we took them to the cleaners in that gale-striven match.

I believe they are still trying to find their feet but, with Blanco in charge of them, you cannot afford to relax for one second. We did so, for just a second or two at Twickenham last March, and they scored at the other end.

We plan a fairly restrictive, pressure-type game and we hope to squeeze them out. We won in 1990 with that sort of game and hope to repeat it tomorrow. The French don't like that, they love freedom. But we will try to stop them playing. I believe we have the fire-power up front and defensive organisation and strength in the backs to squeeze them.

If we win, other sides left in the tournament will start to look up at us. And, in those other quarter-finals, I think New Zealand will win comfortably against Canada, Australia will be too strong for Ireland and, I suspect, Scotland are now on a roll and will just beat Western Samoa. Which, if we win in France, will give us an interesting journey to Edinburgh for the semi-final.

Interview by Peter Bills

Odds still favour England despite dour display

Taylor accuses his players of being negative

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Graham Taylor examined the schedule of the European championship qualifying ties in group seven, he was convinced that November 13 would be the decisive day. He also believed that three nations would still be in contention. The predictions of the England manager were accurate, but only just.

The complexion changed dramatically in the last four minutes in Poznan on Wednesday night. Had Poland not equalised near the end, they would have been out of the running and the Republic of Ireland would have been favourites to win the group and go through to the finals in Sweden next summer.

The odds now lie in favour of England, who require at least a point in Poland next month to be sure of finishing on top. Should they lose, the Irish would be almost certain of qualifying on goal difference by beating Turkey.

If they do so by merely 1-0, Poland could overtake them by winning 5-0 or more — a margin so improbable that it can be discounted. England's destiny, therefore, is still in their own hands.

Taylor could offer no justification for the way in which his shapeless and listless team completed their last home tie.

He conceded that, especially after the interval, "we played nothing football" — a candid and succinct description — and he accused some players of being too negative.

Yet he must accept a large proportion of the blame for designing such a lop-sided formation. Since there was no balance for Waddle, the mid-field inevitably drifted towards the flank he occupied.

At the start, the plan caused a surprise. To pursue it until the end was bemusing. It would have been more logical to allow Waddle to roam in a central position behind Lineker and Smith.

Robson could naturally have covered the left side of midfield, Platt the right, and Batty's limited qualities would have been adequate if he had acted as cover deep in between them. That is surely how the quartet would have been most suitably arranged, with Dixon and Pearce adding width.

Although Robson was far more subdued than he has ever been at Manchester United this season, and Platt's contribution was equally negligible, it would be harsh to criticise them. They were pieces of a jigsaw which did not fit. Batty, for all his waspish enthusiasm, is not yet worthy of a place in the side.

Nor can Lineker and Smith be admonished because the service they received was so poor. Yet Taylor, without mentioning anybody by name, felt that "there were certain situations when people did not accept responsibility. They played it too safe".

Mystifyingly, under the circumstances, he chose not to introduce a sense of adventure. Steven or Merson could

have operated on a wing to reinforce the threat posed by Waddle, for instance, and Beardsley might have enlivened the attack. Taylor preferred to protect the narrow lead supplied by Smith.

"You can make a substitution and it doesn't work," he explained. "And the team can get worse. My experience told me to leave it alone. I didn't want to lose the whole thing." In that case, it hardly seems fair to criticise his players for sharing the same view.

He believes that the Turks have improved rapidly since he watched them beaten 4-1 by Hungary and 5-0 by the Irish a year ago.

"I said then that the longer the team was kept together the harder they would be to beat," he said. "I don't think they are second rate."

Scoring, he admits, is their weakness. Since they have not claimed a single goal in five ties, that much is undeniable. They are also vulnerable in the air at the back. England's two goals in the matches against them were the product of crosses. The Irish are bound to expose the deficiency.

England must assume that they need to avoid defeat in Poznan if they are to earn the right to compete in Sweden. Taylor is unlikely to make many changes for the unnerving occasion. He posed the question himself. "Who do I bring in?"

McMahon for Batty would be one move. Employing three central defenders might be advisable as well, although the posture should not be excessively defensive. Above all, the midfield must be balanced so that everybody in it does not look out of place.

Everton sign Jackson

MATTHEW Jackson, the Luton Town defender whose professional career encompasses just seven senior games, yesterday joined Everton in a surprise £600,000 transfer. Everton will pay Luton a further £300,000 if Jackson goes on to play for England.

Paul Mortimer moved from Aston Villa to Crystal Palace

for £500,000 last night, just three months after joining the midlands club. The transfer involves a return to Selhurst Park for Mortimer, who was with Charlton Athletic, then tenants at the ground, before signing for Villa.

Nottingham Forest have announced a loss of over £1 million for the last financial year.



Looking up: Montgomerie during his improved performance against Calcavecchia at Wentworth

Calcavecchia finds no revenge

By MEL WEBB

THE last time the British public saw Mark Calcavecchia, the fast-talking, city-slick hustler from Laurel, New England, helped him so much that at times in the afternoon the American seemed outnumbered.

Montgomerie was two up after 18 holes, and on the third tee in the afternoon, Calcavecchia lost his hat to the gusting wind. Seven holes later, Montgomerie having taken six of them, he had lost his head, and by the 14th he had lost the match.

Montgomerie won just one of those holes fair and square, a 20-foot putt giving him a birdie three at the 4th. The other five, Calcavecchia, waiving the ball in all directions except the right one, had

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Keble make Weston a victim of the times

By JOHN WOODCOCK

"OXFORD is not the home of lost causes. Oxford is the castle that still defends causes that deserve to win." But even 50 years ago, when C. B. Fry wrote those words, he was wondering for how much longer they would ring true.

To him there were two types of university: those, like Oxford and Cambridge, which were intended as a preparation for life, and for any and every career, and depended to "an unrealised extent" on traditions; and those which amounted to "a higher high-school".

"Whether modern time is long enough for the former conception is a question. But hurry does not always mean progress." As a scholar and Corinthian, Fry was a legend even as an undergraduate. "He belonged — and it was his glory — to an age not obsessed by specialism," Neville

Cardus said. Today, Fry would probably have to go to Durham to be allowed the sporting licence that he was at Oxford in the 1890s.

In the late summer of 1950, David Sheppard, now Bishop of Liverpool, and John Warr, who has had a distinguished career in various directions and is now chairman of the Racecourse Association, were asked to tour Australia and New Zealand with the MCC (now England) side.

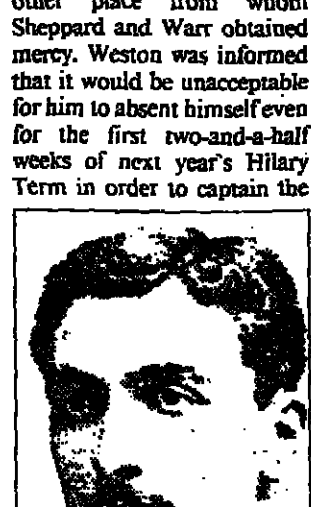
They were both up at Cambridge at the time, each with two more years to do — Sheppard at Trinity Hall and Warr at Emmanuel. To accept MCC's invitation meant leaving England, by sea from Tilbury, on September 14, 1950, and not getting back until April 4, 1951: two whole terms away. Anxiously but eagerly, they sought permission to go, and they received it.

COMMENT

"What splendid news for the college," Edward Welbourne, the Master of Emmanuel, exulted. If the senior tutor of Trinity Hall was not equally enthusiastic, it was, Bishop Sheppard says, because he was not that way inclined; but he made it his urgent business to find out how the great expedition could be undertaken without detriment to anyone. In Sheppard's case the possibility of an aegrotat for his part one exams was discussed but rejected. On their return, wiser in the ways of the world, Sheppard and Warr worked doubly hard.

So, I am sure, would Philip Weston have done, had Oxford's Keble College given him the chance. But times have indeed changed, and he ran into a senior tutor who

proved less "enlightened" than his companions at the other place from whom Sheppard and Warr obtained mercy. Weston was informed that it would be unacceptable for him to absent himself even for the first two-and-a-half weeks of next year's Hilary Term in order to captain the



Fry: a sporting license

Young England cricket side in Pakistan. The time taken would not have been compatible with academic demands.

"It would have been a breach of college regulations," Doctor Paul Hayes said.

But Doctor Hayes must not be allowed to promote the notion, as he has, that in a comparable situation in the 1970s, Imran Khan steadfastly refused to make himself available to play for Pakistan while studying at Keble — and that "what was good enough for Imran should be good enough for Philip Weston".

To put the facts straight, in the summer of 1974, Imran's second as an undergraduate, he played 31 first-class innings — 21 for Oxford and six for Pakistan in Tests against England. His cricketing prowess brought pride and distinction to Keble, and, in time, an honorary fellowship of the college to Imran himself.

To listen to some modern dons, you might suppose that Oxford and Cambridge never used to be primarily academic institutions. What they were not, to anything like the extent they have become, was hot-houses. Sportsmen of potentially heroic stature, so beloved of every society, tend now to be viewed, as they never used to be, with deep suspicion. I am not for one moment suggesting that Philip Weston is of that calibre; but I do believe that Keble would have been a little sunnier next summer for its *alumni* being able just to hop across the road to the University Parks for the odd half-hour, to see how his cover drive was working, and that it is a misconception which will prevent their doing so.

Well, what went wrong, manager?

Graham Taylor (England, 1-0 winners over Turkey): "There seemed to be a smell about the game tonight and I felt that whatever I did, I could not change it. I do not know why we stopped hunting the game in the second half. I did not send on substitutes. I did not believe that I could alter the mood of the match and my feeling was to hold what we had and be grateful. I was surprised we did not put any pressure on Turkey. Why? I cannot answer that. The whole thing is difficult to explain."

Terry Yorath (Wales, 4-1 losers to Germany): "We did not function in any way and the Germans were in a different class to us. I am bitterly disappointed. It was a case of pressing the old destruction button. We said before the game we had to finish the match with 11 men or we had no chance, and we did not even manage that."

Andy Roxburgh (Scotland, 1-0 losers to Romania): "It's desperately upsetting to lose a game in that way. I'm proud of the effort the lads gave. Romania were shattered after 90 minutes. Just imagine how my players felt. We need all the fire-power we can muster next month."

Jack Charlton (Republic of Ireland, who drew 3-3 with Poland): "There were certain parts of our game I was pleased with and certain parts I wasn't. We don't normally play like that, and I didn't like what I saw. I dare not give my real opinion. It was the first time we've scored three in ages and the first time we've given away three goals like that."

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